MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 MAY 1982

Israel

Security Situation — Bombs exploded near a military camp in Jericho and at a bus stop in Jerusalem, according to Jerusalem radio reports on the incidents, which also said there were no casualties.

Knesset Affairs -- Two MK's are resigning from the Likud, Jerusalem radio reported. One will join the Alignment and the other will cooperate with it. Earlier, Jerusalem television reported that the Knesset will discuss an Alignment no-confidence motion on 19 May.

New Airbases -- Speaking at the ceremony in which the Ramon and 'Uvda airbases in the Negev were declared operational, Air Force Commander Maj Gen David 'Ivri said the new bases "are perhaps the best in the world," Jerusalem radio reported.

Possible Tunisian Recognition -- According to Jerusalem radio, Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali has said Tunisia will recognize Israel's existence and negotiate with it if this is approved by the Arab summit conference.

Tabah Dispute -- Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has written to his Egyptian counterpart Kamal Hasan 'Ali calling for a compromise to solve the Tabah border dispute, 'AL HAMISHMAR reported. Shamir indicated that Israel will not accept binding arbitration.

Relations With Africa — Kenya and Zambia will not resume diplomatic relations with Israel, according to Jerusalem radio reports. Meanwhile, the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio said Zaire's resumption of relations with Israel is a "stab in the back" for liberation movements in Namibia and South Africa and for the Palestinian revolution. The Arab League likewise denounced Zaire's decision, AFP reported.

Begin U.S. Visit -- Prime Minister Menahem Begin will meet President Ronald Reagan in Washington on 21 June, Jerusalem television noted.

Lebanon

A Syrian Arab Deterrent Forces (ADF) Command statement broadcast by Beirut radio said that after gunmen fired at ADF trucks passing through Al-Kahhalah township, an ADF patrol returned the fire, hitting three persons. However, Voice of Lebanon radio said the Syrian patrol launched an unprovoked attack in Al-Kahhalah, killing two young men.

PLO

Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf has revealed that a high-level PLO delegation will visit Damascus shortly to complete discussions on a strategic agreement with Syria, the Voice of Palestine reported. Khalaf also stressed that the PLO rejects the Israeli interpretation of the cease-fire agreement. A radio commentary opined that the Israeli leaders are voicing their interpretation of the agreement in an attempt to convince international public opinion beforehand that an aggressive war against Lebanon, the Palestinian revolution and Syria is justified.

Egypt

Thirty Soviet experts will arrive in early July to participate in the installation and operation of new equipment at the iron and steel plants in Hulwan, MENA reported citing AL-JUMHURIYAH. According to the paper, the experts, whose number is expected to increase to 50, will be used for limited periods ranging from 5 to 8 months.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Situation -- Iranian forces succeeded in liberating the Kushk region, killing a large number of Iraqis and destroying 10 tanks, according to an armed forces and Guards Corps communique carried by Tehran Radio. A large number of Iraqi forces was captured during this operation, the communique said. Iranian troops also destroyed the Iraqi forces in the area northwest of Khuzestan and began fortifying positions in this sector, the communique claimed.

According to a later military communique carried by the radio, two Iraqi aircraft were shot down in the Abadan area. In other action on the Abadan front Iranian naval forces killed or wounded 30 Iraqis, the communique reported. It noted that fighting was continuing on most of the western fronts.

According to an Iraqi military communique carried by Baghdad radio, 172 Iranians were killed when Iraqi troops attacked Iranian positions in the area north of Khorramshahr. Another 10 Iranians were killed in action on the Sumar and Gilan-e Gharb fronts, the communique added.

Arab Support for Iraq — The Arab states will invoke the joint Arab defense pact in the event of any Iranian aggression on Iraqi territory, an official Saudi Foreign Ministry source stated in an interview with 'UKAZ, MENA reported. An Arab state will advise Iran of this position and will emphasize the necessity of Iran's responding to peaceful efforts to end the war, the source added.

Meanwhile, in statements to the Cairo press, reported by MENA, Egyptian Defense Minister 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah called on the Arab states which do not support Iraq to halt their aid to Iran so that Iraq's security will not be endangered. While denying the presence of Egyptian soldiers in Iraq, Abu Ghazalah emphasized that Egypt is supplying Iraq with all the military requirements which it cannot obtain elsewhere.

Kuwait

The Kuwaiti Armed Forces are ready to confront any threat against Kuwait "irrespective of its source," Defense Minister Shaykh Salim as-Sabah declared in a statement to Kuwaiti journalists, KUNA reported. Asked about recent Iranian threats against Kuwait, the defense minister said the army is studying the threats carefully but is not concerned. He said the army is ready to defend Kuwait and all members of the GCC.

Iran

Ten 'hypocrites' were arrested in Babol when their hideout was discovered by guards of the Babol Islamic Revolution Committee, Tehran radio reported.

Afghanistan

India and Afghanistan have signed a protocol providing for an increase in the number of Indian experts helping Afghanistan in technical and economic matters, Delhi radio noted.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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'ARAFAT CHAIRS PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

JN171746 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee this afternoon held a meeting under brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. The meeting dealt with the current situation inside the occupied territories and the decisions adopted by the joint Palestinian-Jordanian committee to support the steadfastness of our kinfolk in the occupied territories. The Executive Committee also called for a meeting tomorrow of the Higher Council for Occupied Territories Affairs to follow up the latest developments and the great uprising by the masses of our occupied territories.

The radio correspondent has learned that the Executive Committee discussed the continuation and escalation of the Zionist threats against our Palestinian-Lebanese people and masses in southern Lebanon, particularly the impertinent statements by Begin and his chief of staff.

The Executive Committee approved the decisions adopted by the Higher Military Council of the Palestinian revolution to confront all situations and developments. The Executive Committee also reviewed the Arab situation in light of the latest developments, including the decision by Costa Rica to move its embassy to occupied Jerusalem and that of Zaire to restore its relations with the racist Zionist entity.

FATAH COUNCIL VIEWS POLITICAL, MILITARY ISSUES

NC171212 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1115 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] The Fatah Revolutionary Council has held a regular round of meetings in the presence of Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. The Revolutionary Council discussed the political and military situation in light of reports submitted by the Fatah Central Committee. It also discussed a number of organizational matters.

KHALAF ON CEASE-FIRE, RELATIONS WITH SYRIA

NC180811 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0530 GMT 18 May 82

[Text] Fatah Central Committee member Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] has stressed that the PLO rejects the Israeli interpretation of the cease-fire agreement, because it means suspension of the armed struggle against the Zionist entity and consequently the liquidation of the Palestinian revolution. He pointed out that the cease-fire agreement is pertinent only to halting Palestinian operations from Lebanese territory.

Abu Iyad expects Israel to launch new military operations against Lebanon. He affirmed that the PLO will retaliate for any Israeli operation with proportionate action. In a lengthy press statement, Abu Iyad said the PLO agreed to the cease-fire for temporary considerations so that the Lebanese brothers will not be the only party to pay for confronting the Zionist enemy.

On the strategic agreement between the Palestinian resistance and Syria, Abu Iyad said that a Palestinian delegation, possibly led by Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, will visit the Syrian capital in the next few days to complete discussions on strategic agreement topics. He pointed out that there are 10 points on the agenda on which a position must be defined in order to reach agreement. These points include Egypt, the Iraqi-Iranian war, a settlement [as heard], alliance with the Lebanese Nationalist Forces and ways of expanding this alliance to include other Arab forces.

Abu Iyad strongly denied that the latest incidents in Tripoli indicate a crisis or tension in Palestinian-Syrian relations. He also denied that the call by the Lebanese Nationalist Forces for a strike at the time had another purpose besides solidarity with the city.

Regarding Arab-Egyptian relations, Abu Iyad emphasized that we are against the return of Egypt to the Arab arena as long as it adheres to the Camp David agreements and reconciliation with Israel. We will not change our position on this.

On the situation in the occupied homeland, Abu Iyad asserted that Israel is seeking to impose autonomy and civil administration, and that for this reason it removed Mayors ash-Shak'ah, Khalaf and Tawil.

VOP COMMENTS ON ISRAELI CEASE-FIRE CONCEPT

NC171309 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 May 82

[Unattributed news analysis]

[Excerpts] The government of terrorist Begin yesterday reaffirmed what it terms its understanding of the cease-fire in southern Lebanon and rejected the Palestinian understanding that the cease-fire applies only to the southern borders of Lebanon. Amid an atmosphere of threats and preparations for launching an aggressive war, Begin interpreted the decision of his government, saying the cease-fire no longer exists because of what he termed the continuous violation of the cease-fire by the Palestinians.

Thus, the picture of the grave situation now becomes clearer than at any other time. The possibilities concerning the developments of the situation on the Lebanese-occupied Palestinian border are confined to two options. The actions of the enemy government are pushing toward one of them. Either one accepts the Israeli concept of the cease-fire -- or in other words accepts the extension of the Israeli peace from the Sinai to the northern and eastern sides and the Palestinian revolutionaries' front inside -- or this acceptance of the Israeli peace concept will be imposed through what is termed as a comprehensive military blow or a wide-ranging aggressive operation against the Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese national forces in Lebanon. These two options are in fact one Zionist option designed to impose the enemy's will on the other fronts, just as it was imposed on the Sinai front preparatory to the endorsement and implementation of the autonomy plot in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in accordance with the U.S. Camp David plan.

This Zionist understanding of the cease-fire is rejected part and parcel, even if all the units of the Israeli Army are mobilized behind it. In raising this concept, the enemy leaders are in fact trying to convince international public opinion beforehand that their anticipated aggressive war against Lebanon and the Palestinian revolution and Syria is justified. We are aware of the enemy leaders' need for this war, especially for a man like Sharon who dreams of succeeding Begin. However, throughout the history of our revolution we have not paused before the needs of the enemy leaders and their contest for power or even before the inferiority complexes of some of their generals who, because of their lust for power, move from one war to another.

We are a people who have been fighting for the past 18 years. We have been fighting for inalienable and legitimate rights which are recognized by the whole world and all the institutions of the international community. As long as these rights are still being usurped and violated by the Zionist enemy, no one can diminish the legitimacy of our struggle.

We understand why the enemy rejects the Palestinian concept of the cease-fire. This is because as an occupier and usurper he is still preoccupied with his campaigns, wars, suppression and terrorism, thinking he can reap fruits from all of this through the blood of the people and over their dead bodies. As for us, we only have our strikes and the hands of our revolutionaries and youths, who carry arms and stones. We have no other option but these strikes to force the enemy to submit to the will of our Palestinian people. This is the perpetual and firm approach to just and permanent peace in the whole area. Without the restoration of Palestinian rights, it does not matter if wars take place and the land catches fire every day.

PLO ON RESUMPTION OF ZAIRE-ISRAEL RELATIONS

JN171603 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in English 1500 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] An official source of the PLO Political Department today issued the following comment on the Government of Zaire's decision to restore relations with the Zionist entity: In light of the information we have about the restoration of diplomatic relations between the Zionist entity and Zaire, the PLO Political Department wishes to make clear that this step by the Government of Zaire is considered a stab in the back for liberation movements in Namibia and South Africa as well as to the Palestinian revolution.

This step is a violation of the resolutions of the Organization of African Unity summit conferences and their special obligations to cut all forms of relations with the racist entities in South Africa and Israel. This step is also considered to be a grave violation of the resolutions of the Afro-Arab summits. This is not in the interest of the Afro-Arab cooperation.

While we are astonished at such a position and condemn it, and call on our militant brothers in the Organization of African Unity seriously to consider this dangerous position, we are also confident that the friendly people of Zaire will not accept such a step imposed on them by the government and by United States pressure. All the militant people of Africa, as well as the national organizations which are struggling against imperialism in Africa, will prove that they are in the same trench with the Palestinian people in their struggle against imperialism, racism and Zionism.

ARAB LEAGUE DENOUNCES RENEWED ZAIRE-ISRAEL TIES

NC171928 Paris AFP in English 1915 GMT 17 May 82

[Excerpt] Tunis, 17 May (AFP) -- The Arab League's Secretariat today flatly denounced Zaire's decision to renew diplomatic ties with Israel as "a flagrant violation of principles" undertaken in the first Arab-African summit in 1977.

In a communique, the league also said the decision violated resolutions of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) calling for a break in diplomatic relations with Israel.

"Our regret and profound concern are even greater in that the Zairese decision comes at a time when the collusion of the racist regimes in occupied Palestine and South Africa becomes increasingly evident and the danger increasingly threatening for the security and stability of Arab and African countries," the league said.

The league said it was particularly surprised that Zaire's decision occurred at a time when "Arab-African co-operation was encountering a success in various areas" in attempts to co-ordinate efforts to oppose and boycott Israel and South Africa.

The league considers that Zaire's move "has ruptured African unanimity" and will have serious consequences on relations between Arab countries and Zaire, the communique said.

PLO'S SHAFIQ AL-HUT INTERVIEWED BY AL-HAWADITH

PM141345 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 14 May 82 pp 33-36

[Raghidah Durgham interview with Shafiq al-Hut, director of the PLO office in Beirut and member of the PLO delegation to the UN General Assembly, in New York -- date not given]

[Excerpt] Question: At the beginning of the UN [General Assembly's] seventh emergency session the Arabs agreed on the principle of suspending Israel's UN membership. Then some Arab states gave up the idea and the PLO agreed to abandon it. What happened?

Answer: In view of the United Nations' inability to implement the positive resolutions providing for a settlement of the Palestine problem as a result of the U.S. veto and policy which first block adoption of any draft resolution and then block implementation of such resolutions if passed, the Palestinian delegation and the fraternal Arab delegations sought another way to check or prevent the continuation of the Israeli policy of aggression. The suspension of Israel's UN membership was always a consideration. Such a disciplinary measure is serious and important and, as we know, the United States would not allow such a step.

Question: Knowing this in advance, why raise the idea at all?

Answer: Because the political and diplomatic struggle partly means that we should always request certain things in order to be able to reach specific conclusions, to explore and to ascertain who supports such things, who takes a neutral stand on them and who opposes them. It is a kind of struggle aimed at increasingly isolating Israel at the international level.

Question: As you know, the question being asked, and addressed particularly to the PLO, internally and externally, is this: If the PLO is a liberation movement, why has it agreed to observe a cease-fire in southern Lebanon? What is your answer to this question?

Answer: Actually, the PLO, like any other Arab party, is faced with this challenge. Perhaps if the PLO were able to make its own decision and formulate its own strategy, independently of the Arab brothers, it would be easier to make the decision, regardless of whether it was the right or the wrong decision. Realistically speaking, however, the Middle East situation is such that there are other Arab sides involved in the conflict and the PLO cannot adopt a strategy in isolation from the general Arab strategy.

Question: In view of the absence of a clear Arab strategy, as you yourself have said, and in view of the present Arab divisions and their impact on the international diplomatic scene, what is there left for the PLO to do?

Answer: It appears that the PLO's scope is limited, both as far as diplomatic action is concerned and as far as military action is concerned, because the absence of an Arab strategy and the Arab fragmentation impact more on the Palestinian arena than anything else. First of all, we cannot escape the reality in which we live, which affects us and which we are trying to influence.

To this moment the PLO is still determined to pursue an Arab policy advocating Arab solidarity and even a minimum degree of Arab strategy, and to pursue armed struggle but within the occupied territory. Naturally, this is an enforced rather than a happy choice, because it is the only choice. Whatever the circumstances and whatever the price -- and we are paying a high price indeed every day -- we cannot but continue our struggle, rejecting the occupation and seeking to fulfill the Palestinian people's objectives.

Question: In the PLO's view, is the Prince Fahd plan still on. What is the PLO's position on the plan?

Answer: It is undoubtedly on because it has not been withdrawn and the dialogue is still under way. Some support it with reservations and some support it without any reservations.

Question: What is the PLO's position on the Prince Fahd plan?

Answer: The PLO supports it with reservations. Do not forget that the Prince Fahd plan consists of eight points of which seven are in our favor and one, which is the central problem of recognizing Israel, is not. I believe the Arab leaders should sit down together, consider the matter in depth and then come out with a suitable position in the interests of the Palestinian cause.

In politics there are such things as strategy and tactics. Regardless of what I think of it, the plan has been rejected by Israel and has not been supported by the United States. This is why I have to consider how I can benefit from the U.S. position and the Israeli rejection of such a plan, and I must not appear to be in the same trench as my enemy and opponent. Sometimes postponing one's decision, pending a reaction from Israel, gives one more world support.

Question: Are there any substantial moves to give the Fahd plan fresh momentum now that new factors have emerged in the Arab world, especially the Gulf and peninsular states' sympathy with Egypt after the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai?

Answer: As far as this particular plan is concerned, I do not know. However, as I said earlier, we have to have a specific strategy. If the strategy is one providing for the continuation of political and diplomatic action, then the Prince Fahd plan and other plans will always be in the cards. At the United Nations no settlement can be achieved outside the framework of certain accomplished facts, and our plans would have to take that into consideration. We must follow a specific line and say what we want, without fear. On the other hand, let us assume that we want to destroy Israel. We must ask: What are the prerequisites and circumstances necessary for the destruction of Israel? We must formulate a specific strategy and work for it in the light of the existing realities.

Question: What does the PLO have in its bag, now that Israel has withdrawn from the Sinai?

Answer: It can be said that "Camp David" was a particular phase which ended with the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the Sinai and, regrettably, their replacement with American multinational [as published] forces, and God knows when these will withdraw. I believe the regime in Egypt is now at a new crossroads and it can exploit the situation in order to restore its relations with the Arab states. It is quite clear that the Egyptian regime is committed to the Camp David agreements and does not want to reject or violate them. Still, the regime might be able to surpass Camp David, especially since the second agreement, the only one left under discussion, clearly cannot succeed in any way. If Egypt now finds itself nationally excused because it has recovered its territory, I believe it is no longer committed to following a policy that precipitates its isolation and perpetuates the present Arab situation.

Question: What about the position of the PLO?

Answer: The PLO is very much interested in the return of Egypt to the Arab fold and vice versa. Judging by our experience and our knowledge of Egypt's weight, we believe Egypt and the Arabs are worth nothing unless there is solidarity between them and unless there is coordination and cooperation between them in the political, military, economic and other fields.

The question is: Will Egypt's return to the Arab fold, bearing in mind Egypt's present restrictions and commitments, lead to a change in the Arab situation, or must Egypt first ease out of these restrictions by introducing domestic changes and adopting Egyptian nationalist attitudes to make its return worthwhile? Egypt after Camp David is not the same as Egypt before Camp David. Egypt has changed in so far as its strength and abilities are concerned, because the enemy knew how to shackle it. Will Egypt's return mean its regaining health and freedom, and will it mean that it will be able to play its role in the region? This is the question.

Question: Let us go back to the Prince Fahd plan. Is the question of holding a new Arab summit conference to discuss the plan being considered?

Answer: There is always talk about this, with arguments and counterarguments, postponements and procrastination. As far as we are concerned, we want an Arab summit conference to be held as soon as possible, provided it succeeds. The summit is not an objective in itself.

Question: Before such a summit conference is held, the various Arab disputes should be settled. Is the PLO trying to soften the ground between Baghdad and Damascus, for example?

AnswerL We are trying steadily, at the level of leaders and other officials, if not officially then unofficially. We are trying to project the positive Arab common denominators and dim the negative aspects.

Question: Are there any official moves at present, such as an initiative or a mediation?

Answer: There is no mediation.

Question: On the moves and suggestions of Dr 'Isam as-Sartawi about mutual recognition, what is the PLO's position?

Answer: What 'Isam as-Sartawi has said is not new. There is perhaps an Arab trend that goes even further than he, but all this is no more than personal and individual opinions that have no official nature. Talk becomes important when it is by an official body and a responsible leadership. So far, this has not happened.

Question: What is the position on the question of mutual and simultaneous recognition between the PLO and Israel?

Answer: This is just talk. It has not been raised by an official body, no preparations have been made for it and it is meaningless. For the sake of argument, let us assume mutual recognition did take place. Then what? What would have been achieved? I believe talk about recognition is political saloon talk aimed at obstructing any serious political effort to settle the issue. It is like putting the cart before the horse.

Question: Are there any direct contacts between the PLO and the Israeli movements opposed to the Israeli regime, such as the "Peace Now" movement?

Answer: Yes, there is a decision to activate and enhance these contacts. We are indeed very happy to hear voices beginning to be raised in Israel deploring and condemning the acts of terrorism committed by the Begin government against our people. This is a start which we undoubtedly must encourage. We must encourage the few but daring voices which say "this is not the Israel we want and this is not the policy we support. We want to live in peace and we want everyone's rights fulfilled."

Question: Is the cease-fire still valid?

Answer: So far, yes -- but it may not hold for much longer.

Question: Why not?

Answer: Because this is how it has been for the past 30 years: violence followed by a cease-fire followed by political efforts followed by failure followed by a return to violence.

Question: Have you had an opportunity to meet with any congressmen or U.S. officials during your stay in the United States?

Answer: We had received invitations to meet with some congressmen but the meetings did not materialize because Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department] has been recalled by the Palestinian leadership.

Question: Which congressmen sent the invitations?

Answer: Findley, Hamilton and Percy.

Question: You must attach some importance to such contacts. Why did you not give them priority?

Answer: We might hold such meetings another time, perhaps soon.

Question: Why was Abu al-Lutf recalled?

Answer: It is getting very late and I have some prior engagements. We will discuss the rest some other time.

PLO OFFICIAL DOUBTS EFFICACY OF UN MIDEAST ROLE

NC151619 Cairo MENA in English 1600 GMT 15 May 82

[Text] Paris, 15 May (MENA) -- Chairman of the Palestine National Council Foreign Relations Committee Khalid al-Hasan today excluded the possibility of solving problems of the occupied territory through the UN Security Council due to the French, British and American veto.

Al-Hasan in a statement to Arab reporters here said that any solution of the Palestinian issue would be vetoed at the UN Security Council.

On the points raised at the world symposium on the rights of the Palestinian people held here yesterday, Al-Hasan said that these were points liable to debate for those questioning the Palestinian stance.

He further said that it was important to have a European role to preclude an American monopoly in the Mideast, which is a vital region.

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC UNDERTAKING INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES SURVEY

GF131450 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1305 GMT 13 May 82

[Text] Muscat, 13 May (WAKH) -- Dr 'Abdallah al-Quwayz, GCC assistant secretary general for economic affairs, has announced that a survey of basic and industrial materials in the GCC states is taking place in order to determine the industrial resources of each GCC state and study means, methods and measures of supporting industry in the various GCC states.

In a statement to the Omani weekly AL-'AQIDAH published today, Dr al-Quwayz said that a study is underway to impose custom duties on the outside world prior to the application of the minimum limit stated in the economic agreement as a unified custom on the outside world. He added that with regard to oil and unifying the petroleum policy of the member states, several measures have been adopted to protect their resource. He added that a petroleum strategy based on unifying stands in specialized international and regional organizations has also been adopted, in addition to the decision to enter joint ventures to transport crude oil and unify policies in the marketing of refined products.

He said a meeting will be held next month in the Sultanate of Oman to discuss the prospects of petroleum industrialization. The GCC assistant secretary general also said the council is putting forward a comprehensive view of long-term economic planning in the GCC states. It is now in the process of forming a committee of specialists in the region's affairs in order to lay down an economic planning strategy for the GCC states.

Talking about the question of food security, Dr al-Quwayz said: We view this issue from three angles: The first is the process of the joint storage and increasing its prospects in the GCC states. The second is joint importation of food products. The third is the achievement of food security through local production.

Commenting on the possibility that economic cooperation among the GCC states may result in the formation of Gulf economic community like the EEC, the GCC assistant secretary general said: We would not like to be like the ECC because that market is complicated, it has long proceedings and there is much competition and conflict among its members.

BAHRAIN

AMIR ON GCC ECONOMIC COOPERATION, GULF WAR

GF151745 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 12 May 82 p 21

[Interview granted by Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman al Khalifah in Kuwait on 11 May]

[Text] Question: Your Highness, do you believe the GCC countries are implementing the philosophy of cooperation which motivated the establishment of the GCC? Have GCC countries started to link their peoples through their common interests?

Answer: Yes. I can say that the private sector in the GCC countries has started to harvest the fruits of the GCC. It is true the common interests of Bahrain and Kuwait are longstanding, but we are now harvesting its fruits. One of the fruits is the steady economic cooperation between Bahrain's public sector and Kuwait's private sector. It is multitudinous cooperation.

It can be said the GCC countries are moving toward economic integration. For example, there are economic projects which link us with Saudi Arabia. When the Saudis thought of establishing an aluminum factory, we proposed they cooperate with Bahrain's aluminum factory. They accepted the offer for cooperation and the factory became a joint enterprise. This set an example for a group of other industries which have been established to embody the idea of cooperation and which will link the peoples of the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf region through their common interests to reach the other political goals. Hence, the philosophy of cooperation among the GCC countries is being practically implemented; this is a good beginning.

Question: Your Highness, do you believe the GCC countries are moving on the international market economically and politically as one party or are they still separate parties, as they used to be?

Answer: In fact, I can say they have really started to act as one party. Consultations continue to be held among them to reach a consensus on international problems and on the region's issues, including, of course, economic issues, foremost of which is its peoples' desire to achieve economic integration and to link its peoples through mutual interests which are the basis for any political move.

Question: Your Highness, what about the project to link Bahrain's land with the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf countries through the causeway, which is scheduled to be completed in 3 years? What does this mean?

Answer: Work on the causeway has already begun and it will be completed on schedule. It is not a historical secret that the American Continent was not unified until its parts were linked through transportation. This made unification easier and helped establish it as a power. Imagine the great dimensions of the project to link Bahrain's land with the countries of the Arabian Peninsula. A traveler from Europe will thus be able to come to Bahrain by land and the countries of the region will be linked with Bahrain through a land transportation network. This will ultimately turn Bahrain from an island into a country connected by land with its brothers in the countries of the Arabian Peninsula and Gulf region, and even the Arab world and Europe. You know the significance of connecting a country with other countries by land. The significance of this connection has started to reflect on Bahrain's economy; the government is implementing the policy of turning Bahrain into a country of economic establishments integrated with the countries of the region. An example of this integration is the offshore banks. When the Bahraini Government found there were no such banks in the region, we tried to establish them without competing with anyone. As a result, Bahrain became an international financial center, which is actively led by the private sector.

Question: One of the objectives of the GCC is to turn the region into an international financial center. Do you believe this will bring the region into the international financial centers or will it have its own special features?

Answer: We have really become an international financial center. Allow me to tell you that there are international funds being handled by Bahrain's private sector. In many cases, the government does not know anything about these funds until the documents are completed and are publicly announced. This is indicative of the active role being played by this sector. One of the main characteristics of the countries of the region is that in trying to become an international financial center, they are using their own money. Money in other international financial centers is the property of foreign investors. With their own money, the countries of the region will be able to become an international financial center that might replace Singapore or even other centers. In the same way, they will be able to establish a petrochemical production center, using their raw resources. This is an advantage the countries which export these raw materials do not have.

Question: Are there any major obstacles to the process of expanding economic integration between Kuwait and Bahrain through their mutual interests?

Answer: No. As I have said, the economic growth resulting from the linkage between the Kuwaiti and the Bahraini peoples through their common interests is the fruit of many years of cooperation. This growth is being reflected in the GCC; not only is it a strength for the GCC but it is also part of the economic coordination among the peoples of the Arabian Peninsula and Gulf region. That is why we say there are no obstacles. If any appear they can be removed in a spirit of amity and direct contacts.

On our part, we encourage this form of economic linkage and we will follow its process. It is enough to have mutual confidence between the dealers in Bahrain and the dealers in Kuwait, a confidence which has enabled the private sectors of Bahrain and Kuwait to be linked through a joint and common interest in various fields, including public companies which are being set up by the two parties and public companies which are being set up by the two parties and which are run through consultations between the two parties.

Question: Do you believe Saudi Arabia and other countries in the Gulf region have played a sufficient role to counter the recent incidents in Bahrain?

Answer: What happened was not directed at Bahrain alone; Bahrain was only a beginning. Those who carried out the [sabotage] were not only Bahraini nationals, but nationals from other countries. That is why action was not, of course, Kuwait's or Saudi Arabia's alone, but was a collective action, since what happened was directed at the countries of the region and was intended to shake their stability. However, the attempt failed. At the same time, this attempt must not be overexaggerated or given a greater significance than necessary because all of us acted against it and it is over. What remains is that we have to be always vigilant because to be vigilant is better than to lament the past.

Question: Your Highness, have the recent incidents had any effect on Bahrain's economy?

Answer: Every event has its negative as well as positive aspects. This region, including Bahrain, is enjoying a stability which has started to reflect on its development and its economic growth. In my view, past events have probably had some negative effects which are temporary and very limited. The region will remain stable, God willing. What happened in Bahrain has neither affected its economic strength, nor its moves to become a strong financial center, nor its efforts to achieve economic integration with GCC sister states. That is why we can say what happened has not affected our economy. On the contrary, it has been positive for us because it was a warning not only for Bahrain, but for the entire region, and it will make us vigilant.

Question: What is the reason for the distinctive economic growth being reflected in the budget of Bahrain, which does not depend on oil as a main source of revenue?

Answer: They are always asking us about the reason for the construction projects in Bahrain at a time when the government does not possess immense revenues. We tell them the private sector is an active sector and Bahrain profits by the trade of its peoples and the peoples of the countries of the region. This is probably the reason for this prosperity, which we are trying to foster and expand as I have explained: by turning Bahrain into a country economically integrated with its sister countries in the region whose financial status is good.

Question: Your Highness, what is Bahrain's view of the Iran-Iraq war?

Answer: We talked with His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad about this issue yesterday. Our view, which is part of a collective stand of the countries of the region, is that this war should stop. We will not spare any efforts through international organizations or -- if we are asked to -- through Bahrain's direct contacts, to do something that can stop this war. We look forward to the day when it will come to an end; this is our sincere desire.

Question: Your Highness, Egypt's return to the Arab world is the subject of every talk throughout the entire Arab world.

Answer: Egypt is a fraternal country; its return is a collective Arab desire, which we hope will be fulfilled. What is important is to create the atmosphere through which Egypt can return. The first part of Camp David, which is the [Israeli] withdrawal, has now been completed. What remains is the issue on which Arabs have differed: the Palestinian issue. We hope we will find the proper situation that will enable Egypt to play its role, whether through an Egyptian or an Arab initiative. What is important and what we look forward to is that we will find the bases on which Egypt can return to assume its role in the Arab world.

INFORMATION MINISTER ON GCC, EGYPT, OTHER TOPICS

GF111700 Manama AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 11 May 82 pp 3, 8

[Interview granted by Information Minister Tariq 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Mu'ayyad to Kuwaiti magazine AL-YAQAZAH -- no date or place given]

[Excerpt] [Question] Of course, Bahrain favors ending the Iraqi-Iranian war. Yet it is subject to designs and ambitions, at least in the statements of Iranian officials. Do you expect Iran to carry out any political move against Bahrain? If that happens, God forbid, what will your strategy be?

[Answer] These days, man is optimistic and he wishes good for himself and for his neighbors. However, he must be ready for future events. What happened between Iraq and Iran is regrettable, of course, because war serves neither Iran nor Iraq. Rather, it saps Iraqi and Iranian capabilities. It also weakens this region. I believe any threat posed to Bahrain is a threat to the entire region. If there are ill intentions, they bode ill for the whole region. If we take into consideration what is said on the radio, it is not only directed against Bahrain but against the entire region. I hope we have reached the stage at which all sons of the Gulf feel that any aggression against a Gulf country is aggression against the entire Gulf.

I hope we have reached a stage of military and political coordination where nobody will try to commit any aggression against a certain region, whether in Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia or Oman. Any aggression against any of these countries is aggression against Bahrain. This is the plan which is being drafted, and it is a correct one because it is impossible and unreasonable for each Gulf state, which are small countries in terms of human resources, to be prepared to confront a major aggression. On the other hand, you know about the ambitions in the region of foreign parties which intend to attack it to disturb the nation and to shake the existing confidence. We have to be prepared for that. At the same time, we have to be optimistic and I hope this optimism will be justified.

[Question] What is the nature of the Qatari-Bahraini differences, the mediations being made in this regard and the means you deem fit to eliminate them?

[Answer] After the establishment of the GCC, it is impossible for any difference between brothers to arise.

I would like here to laud the speedy move by all the Gulf countries when they feel there is any misunderstanding that might be exploited by those who wish us ill. This is what happened recently. We are optimistic that speed in dealing with issues will have a great effect on resolving all problems left by the past. I feel if the situation is studied carefully, no problem can be found among the Gulf countries. Steps have been taken to resolve all differences and problems to the extent that no reason can be found for disturbing relations among the Gulf countries. We are convinced the region has the same fate and we have to try to remove all differences in any way possible. We are moving in this direction, thank God. We affirm there are positive factors in treating this issue which were not found before. There is no reason for accelerating events because these matters will be settled in accordance with the desires of the brothers in the region. There is no ground for blaming us for any differences among us.

[Question] Is the return of Bahraini-Egyptian relations determined by a collective Arab initiative or will steps on this issue be taken by each country individually? On the Gulf level, is this issue determined by a GCC decision?

[Answer] Bahrain is a country for every Arab. There is great optimism in the Gulf and in the Arab homeland that Egypt must return to the Arab nation. This optimism springs from the current Egyptian policy which is balanced. I believe Egypt reciprocates the desire to return to the Arab nation. We cannot say Egypt has left the Arab line because of a certain occurrence or because of a political decision. Egypt is an important part of the Arab nation and it is an economic, military and human force that must be invested in the service of Arab causes. We must work to bring it back to the Arab nation with all our might and by all means. We must forget the past and its problems. I believe if Egypt returns, it will bring great support for the Arab and Palestinian causes.

Our main cause is the Palestinian cause, and if we study the recent statements by Egyptian officials, we will find they fully understand the Arab nation is concerned primarily with the Palestinian cause more than with the restoration of land. That is why we find the discussion of the autonomy talks has become tepid. There is a trend in this regard to view the Palestinians as responsible for their cause and voicing their own opinions on it. We cannot punish Egypt for something that has taken place and ended. There is a sincere intention not only in Bahrain and the Gulf countries but in the other Arab countries on Egypt's return to the Arab nation. I believe this will happen and Egypt will return to the Arab caravan, God willing. Of course, we consider the Camp David settlement an agreement to restore land and it is over with its restoration. No one wants Egypt to lose its land again. Nobody should relinquish the main cause. I believe this was said on many occasions and that many things have changed.

We believe the Camp David agreement was a stage that was rejected in its time. However, no Arab objects to the Sinai's return to Egypt. But if the Camp David agreement means imposition of a certain situation, an end to the Palestinian presence, an end to negotiations with the Palestinians, abandonment of Jerusalem and the West Bank, we reject that. I do not believe this is going on in the mind of the Egyptians. They are still talking about Jerusalem. We heard that President Husni Mubarak refused to visit Jerusalem. We must view this positively. I hope I am right in my analysis.

[Question] The Arab nation is full of differences which nobody can deny. How do the Bahraini media reconcile these differences without offending any party?

[Answer] I say sadly and frankly the current Arab situation is lamentable. We are dealing with this situation very carefully in our media. The unified Arab media were better 5 years ago than they are now. The Arab media today are an instrument being used by enemies instead of being a tool for good and for amity between brothers. Once a problem crops up, radios begin to devote too much attention to it.

Perhaps we in the Gulf are in a better position than others because the Gulf always avoids media campaigns. It even avoids retaliating against those who slander it. We are deeply disappointed when we talk about media projects in the United States and in Europe. Such projects do not see the light of day. We may find four ambassadors, each of whom is serving his own interest. Likewise, radios in some Arab countries use the same method. Gulf media are a window on the Gulf home which is full of amity and fraternity.

There is a sincere call to unify the media. However, we find some Arab countries suffering from certain problems which believe the media do not reflect these problems and they want to export them. Given the choice, I would not be a head of any Arab media organ at present because everyone knows the media are the first step, in war and in peace, and they are the instrument of amity. They can achieve love and fraternity just as they can be the first shot in a war.

RESUMPTION OF ZAIRE-ISRAEL RELATIONS DENOUNCED

GF171802 Manama AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 17 May 82 pp 1, 4

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] During the period of hesitation by the Israeli enemy before the final withdrawal from the Sinai, it seems the possibility of the return of Israeli-African relations was one of the factors that tipped the balance in favor of the decision to withdrawal. Continuing Egypt's isolation from the Arab world and ending the isolation of Israel from the African countries were irresistable temptations for the Israeli enemy which outweighed the advantage of keeping the land, which is the enemy's greatest wish.

During the 1960's, the Israeli enemy infiltrated Africa politically, militarily and economically. It was galloping all over the virgin continent, concluding alliances, plotting coups, selling Israeli products and plundering the wealth of the countries which had recently achieved independence. As usual, its alliances were concluded with the worst and most oppressive regimes against the blacks, such as the racist South African regime and the Mobutu regime, which has more Africans in its prisons than the racist white government of Pretoria.

The Arab states made efforts to expose Israel's policy and its collaboration with imperialism and racism, to explain the Palestinian issue and the injustice which has been inflicted on the Palestinians and to convince the African countries their natural allies are the Arab countries struggling against imperialism and the Zionist occupation.

These efforts were crowned [with success] during the 1973 war when 29 African states broke relations with the Zionist entity occupying the Arab territories. Zairian President Mobutu said at the United Nations that although he had relations of friendship with Israel, relations with Arabs were more important than friendship.

The Arab states did not spare any economic or military aid to the Zairian Government; without the aid that was dispatched from Morocco via Arab lands to Zaire, Mobutu would not be ruling today. Yet, Mobutu is rewarding us with a strong slap in the face; he not only resumed relations with the Zionist enemy but also situated his embassy in Jerusalem, thus defying all Arab feelings and international norms and regulations.

What Mobutu and his regime did is not unexpected. Nevertheless, great efforts should be exerted to counter the Zionist campaigns in the African arena so that this [African] exception will not become a rule.

KUWAIT

DEFENSE MINISTER REJECTS FOREIGN INTERFERENCE

LD180846 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0706 GMT 18 May 82

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 18 May (KUNA) -- Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Salim as-Sabah has been quoted as saying the Kuwaiti Armed Forces are ready to confront any threat against Kuwait irrespective of its source.

Shaykh Salim said this to journalists yesterday following the graduation ceremony of cadets from the military college. His statement is carried today by the Kuwaiti papers.

Journalists asked the defense minister about recent Iranian threats against Kuwait. He replied: We are studying these threats carefully; we are not concerned. The army officers and men are ready to defend our beloved homeland and all member-states of the GCC. He stressed: We will not allow any power to set one foot on our land without our approval. We will fight and they will not enter our country except over our dead bodies.

Shaykh Salim repeated Kuwait's rejection of any foreign interference in the strategic and sensitive Gulf region. He said the defense ministers and military commanders of the GCC member-states -- Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain and the Sultanate of Oman -- have laid down broad lines of coordination and joint fraternal cooperation in a way to enable them to face up to all situations and circumstances.

The Kuwaiti defense minister expressed hope that the Iraqi-Iranian war soon would be resolved because it is in nobody's interest.

Shaykh Salim said the reasons for the Arab boycott of Egypt still exist. However, he pointed out that the boycott is against the regime and not against the people of Egypt who have given and are giving a great deal in the service and defense of the Arab nation. He asked that the Egyptian president be given time after inheriting a heavy and difficult legacy from his predecessor the late Anwar as-Sadat during whose administration the Arab boycott of Egypt was instituted -- 3 years ago -- as a result of his signing the peace treaty with Israel. Shaykh Salim said other developments have taken place and there is a new atmosphere; some states are calling on Egypt to carry out its Arab duties.

PAPERS REVIEW GCC FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING

LD161418 Kuwait KUNA in English 1000 GMT 16 May 82

[From the press review]

[Text] Kuwait, 16 May (KUNA) -- AL-ANBA' on the Gulf war and the reality of Arab solidarity:

"We truly believe that yesterday's meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council's foreign ministers had to be convened much earlier than that. It was the duty of the Arab League or any of its members to move ahead with a call for an Arab foreign ministers' meeting to discuss the Gulf war which is a matter of destiny. But it seems that no one cares a jot about the outcome of this war or Iraq's destiny or ours, the peoples of the Gulf and the other Arabs.

"Yet we want anyone listening to our voice to understand that we are not crying for help nor are we falling down to the ground. We shall not. All that we want to know is whether what we understand of the Arab solidarity, of standing together in the face of threats, is true.

"We want the whole world to know that we stand today knowing more than ever that we are surrounded by dangers that we realize the seriousness of, and moreover feel for sure that we have lost the actual meaning of solidarity and that the joint Arab defence pacts mean that we fight, defend with others and contribute in every battle while having our voice lost when the hour of threat arrives.

"Whether we are the ones to say it or not, by God we are facing a serious turn. If our people (Arabs) are not ours (to our side) then let them allow us to re-examine our way of looking at things.

"The history of our Arab relations testifies that we, the good and loving people of the Gulf rush without any calculation towards any Arab in need without asking him for a proof of the threat he claims. As such we do not permit anybody to ask us to present a proof of the honesty of our fears. We demand that Arabs, in front of the whole (?world) [words indistinct] behind closed doors, declare that they feel with us the threat and that they accept our understanding of the facts of the age. Or else let it be complete hopelessness regarding the construction of a new Arab world governed by one vision, one will and one national feeling..."

AL-RA'Y AL-'A'MM on the same subject:

"The council of the Gulf states' foreign ministers was extremely realistic when it avoided inviting an extraordinary meeting of the Arab foreign ministers to convene amidst the standing facts of the current Arab situation. The council decided beforehand, and it was right, that such a meeting of the Arab foreign ministers would only aggravate reasons for rift instead of mending cracks. To avoid it would be better in the hope that side contacts might come out with something.

"But supposing this meeting was held, what do we expect or hope it will result in? Throughout last year, and since the Israeli air raid on the Iraqi nuclear reactor, a series of meetings by the Arab foreign ministers were held. What was the outcome...a big zero on the [word indistinct] of course. Those meetings perhaps have even helped aggravate the Arab tragedy. Are the Gulf ministers, who will meet again after two weeks, then expecting an upside down turn of the current Arab situation?

"We doubt that and they know better than us the facts about the Arab stances. That is why most probably the end of this month will not bring about something more than its middle. For the course of the Arab deterioration will not come to a halt."

EDITOR URGES INITIATIVE IN TIES WITH EGYPT

GF161120 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 15 May 82 p 7

["Opinion" column by Ahmad Jarallah: "Let Us Restore Ties With Egypt"]

[Text] Iraq is the country which gave an example of historic importance in 1973 by its restoration of diplomatic ties with Iran. Iraq took that step though it is a Muslim country and Arabs were then at war with Israel.

On the whole, the Arab world accepted Iraq's explanation, though there were many who tried to exploit the situation to their own ends and give it different dimensions and interpretations

Among those perpetrators were countries which base their policy on opposing Iraq and those who "trade with the Palestinian case as part of their own political survival." Iran, in 1973 was under the shah's rule and that monarch, as we all know, had unrestrained relations with Israel. Despite all this, Iraq had put behind its Islamic commitments and ended its differences with its eastern neighbor in a historical communique.

Now the role of Egypt in the Iraq war is no secret. Egypt is not even asking for a moral appreciation.

It is we, the Arab world, who had quit Egypt. We are not concerned with what really happened but it is known that the differences with Egypt were not based on principles. Again, those who trade with the Palestinian case interpreted those differences in their own way. The Arab world is now under pressure to keep Egypt away and these pressures are coming from countries which benefited from the split. Only Iraq, an important country and a country which puts logic first, has been able to put the matters in right perspective and it had called upon the other Arab states to resume normal links with Egypt.

It is easier now, because Egypt does not need to give similar justifications as Iraq gave in 1973 when there was a war with Israel. Now there is a war with Iran and Egypt has a role to play in that war. Moreover, the Egypt of today is the Egypt of Husni Mubarak and not an Egypt of Anwar as-Sadat, with whom we differed so greatly.

The whole Arab world, with the exception of perhaps two states is looking forward toward restoring normal relations with Cairo. But who is ringing the bell? Sultan Qabus' efforts are commendable and we should help him succeed, without wavering, without making new complications. We must initiate the drive toward full restoration of ties with Egypt, as if it was the only right thing to do.

AS-SIYASAH DETAILS QABUS-MUBARAK MEETING

GF161210 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 15 May 82 pp 1, 17

["Exclusive report"]

[Text] During his closed meeting with Sultan Qabus at Al-Qubbah Palace, President Husni Mubarak was very frank. He explained at length to Sultan Qabus the dimensions of the political situation Cairo is undergoing with its sister Arab states. Mubarak purposely stated his great desire for a return of Arab relations without any contracts or grudges that might be created with some Arab countries which adhere to the policy of steadfastness and rejection.

AS-SIYASAH's reports indicate that Sultan Qabus, who listened with great attention to President Husni Mubarak, was greatly pleased by the frankness which Mubarak showed, as if he were talking with the GCC and the rest of the Arab country leaders. At the conclusion of the meeting, he asked Qabus to convey his clear vision on Egypt's return to Arab ranks. He said it would do no harm if Arabs concerned about Arab solidarity would join him in his efforts. Sources say Sultan Qabus found out that the issue of Egypt's return to the Arab ranks was not as difficult as some people imagined. That is why, in Mubarak's presence, he immediately called King Husayn and explained his closed meeting with Mubarak. Following the telephone call, Sultan Qabus also made a call to a leader of a Gulf state known for his concern with Arab unity, Arab solidarity and close ranks. It is said that President Mubarak was involved in the two telephone calls and conveyed his greetings to King Husayn and the Gulf leader.

AS-SIYASAH reported that, during Qabus' visit to Cairo, a Gulf official traveled to Cairo with a message from his president. It should be noted that this official traveled to Cairo after the phone call Sultan Qabus made to the Gulf leader in Mubarak's presence.

AS-SIYASAH reiterated that the Arab arena will move actively during the next coming weeks to restore Arab solidarity. It is not ruled out that Jordan, Morocco and Iraq will announce the restoration of diplomatic relations with Cairo to be followed by official invitations to the leaders of these countries. Diplomatic sources expect King Husayn to make an official visit to Cairo in the next few weeks.

OIL OUTPUT DECREASED 37 PERCENT IN 1981

GF111121 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 10 May 82 p 1

[Text] Kuwait, 9 May -- Kuwait's oil production fell by 37 percent in 1981 and the country lost 50 percent of its lifting contracts in that year, the annual report of the Central Bank of Kuwait said today.

The report said Kuwait's share in OPEC and world production fell to five percent and two percent respectively, from 6.6 percent and three percent the year before. The report put average daily production in 1981 at 1.125 million barrels. That level is known to have undergone a further 41.8 percent drop in 1982, with current production around 655,000 barrels a day. The 50 percent drop in lifting contracts was due to a retreat in quantities sold to Kuwait's main clients, namely British Petroleum, Gulf oil and Royal Dutch Shell, the report said. It attributed this to the sluggish demand on the world market and to the surcharge Kuwait used to impose on additional quantities purchased by certain clients. The three companies lifted 200,000 barrels a day in 1981, compared to 400,000 barrels in 1980, the report said.

In an effort to counter a midyear slump the report said Kuwait increased the credit period on payments from 30 to 90 days and reduced its official crude price in compliance with a resolution adopted at an emergency OPEC meeting in Geneva last October. These measures, together with a November lowering of one million barrels a day in Saudi production, helped increase output by the Kuwait Oil Company from a July-August low of 650,000 barrels to 750,000 barrels daily in the last quarter of 1981, the report said. The drop in crude production was accompanied by a 27 percent decline in natural gas production, to 128 million cubic metres in the first half of 1981, according to the report.

QATAR

PAKISTANI FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FROM UAE

GF141425 Doha QNA in Arabic 1350 GMT 14 May 82

[Text] Doha, 14 May (QNA) -- Pakistani Foreign Affairs Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan arrived in Doha from Abu Dhabi at noon today on a 2-day visit to Qatar. The Pakistani minister made a statement following his arrival in which he expressed pleasure about his visit to Qatar, which is part of his tour of a number of the region's states. He said during the visit he will hold talks with senior Qatari officials on bolstering bilateral relations, and will review the situation and developments in the region.

SAUDI ARABIA

OFFICIAL, CHATTI DISCUSS WORLD, ISLAMIC ISSUES

LD171522 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1442 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] Jidda, 17 May (SPA) -- 'Abd ar-Rahman Mansuri, foreign under secretary for political affairs, conferred today with Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, who stated after the meeting that the discussion dealt with world and Islamic issues in light of international developments and, chiefly, the Iraq-Iran war, since the kingdom is the current chairman of the Islamic Conference Organization.

Chatti briefed the foreign under secretary on the outcome of his visits to Guinea and Morocco. Chatti said that the meeting also dealt with Costa Rica and Zaire restoring relations with Israel. He described these measures as defiance of the will of Arab and Islamic peoples. He said this action cannot be considered normal and should be met with similar defiance on the part of the countries concerned, a defiance which must be represented by severing relations with these two states.

CHATTI ASKS ZAIRE TO RESCIND DECISION ON ISRAEL

LD180922 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0740 GMT 18 May 82

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 18 May (SPA) -- Secretary General of the Islamic Conference Organization Habib Chatti has called on Zaire to rescind its decision regarding the resumption of diplomatic relations with the Zionist entity.

He said the appeal addressed by the Islamic states to the African states to sever relations with the Zionist enemy stemmed from the necessity of respecting the principles to which everybody declared his commitment under the umbrella of the United Nations and its resolutions which rejected and condemned the occupation of other people's territory by force.

In statements to 'UKAZ and AL-MADINAH published today, the Islamic Conference Organization secretary general pointed out that the Islamic states are firmly supporting the struggle against the policy of racial discrimination in Africa -- the same policy which Israel is practicing daily against the inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories. Habib Chatti stressed that the main reasons for the severance of African relations with Israel still exist, particularly following the annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights and Arab Jerusalem.

Habib Chatti also dealt with Costa Rica's decision to move its embassy to Jerusalem and said this constitutes a challenge to the Islamic states and all countries of the world. He said this decision will reflect negatively and seriously on Costa Rica's relations with the Islamic states. He declared that the Islamic Conference Organization has begun to take the necessary measures in response to Costa Rica's attitude and these will be revealed in the near future.

Habib Chatti also spoke about the Iraqi-Iranian war and denied that the Islamic Good Offices Committee has failed in its task. He said the committee has put forward constructive proposals and it is awaiting the GCC foreign ministers' meetings which will be resumed in Riyadh on 30 May.

IRAQ'S TARIQ 'AZIZ ARRIVES IN RIYADH 17 MAY

LD172018 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Iraqi Revolution Council and deputy prime minister, arrived in Riyadh this evening for a few days' visit. He was welcomed at the airport by Mr Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state and member of the Council of Ministers.

LIBERIA'S DOE ENDS VISIT, LEAVES FOR ALGERIA

LD151452 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1120 GMT 15 May 82

[Excerpts] Jidda, 15 May (SPA) -- Liberian President Samuel K. Doe left Jidda this afternoon for Algeria, after staying in Jidda for 2 days.

GULF SOLIDARITY URGED IN FACE OF RECENT EVENTS

LD152150 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 May 82

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] foreign ministers' extraordinary meeting in Kuwait considered many highly important matters related not only to new developments in the region, but also to something more important than this, namely, the role the Arab nation has to assume in such circumstances, especially the Gulf states which are nearer to the region of the changing events, and in particular the events of the armed conflict between Iraq and Iran -- events whose continuation represents a danger to the region. There will not be just one loser in this confrontation; the Arab and Muslim nation will lose, owing to the exhaustion of the [words indistinct] of both countries.

The changes and circumstances being experienced by the Arab-Israeli struggle require the Arab stand to have an effective and [word indistinct] role in the events, expecially since the enemy of the Arab nation has come to think that the absence of an Arab stance gives him the opportunity to put pressure on the events so as to channel them his own way.

The GCC states -- due to the effective political weight they have owing to a similar vision and the (?same stands) of these countries -- have vast potentials which allow them to play an effective role not only in creating [words indistinct] to reorganize Arab solidarity only, but to turn this solidarity into a living fact enabling the Arab nation to overcome the state [word indistinct] being experienced by the Arab man [word indistinct] and regain his legitimate rights, first and foremost that of the Palestinian people to their homeland and to the formation of their own independent state.

It is natural for the Arabian Gulf effort to be a strong pillar in the Arab struggle. However, the completion of this circle will come only through an all-out Arab [word indistinct]. The GCC states know and are trying to realize this through an aware and honest evaluation of developments and changes at all levels -- Arab, Muslim and international. For all these considerations, the meeting of the foreign ministers has stressed the need, rather, the inevitability that the Arab nation confronts, based on its solidarity, the challenges which are becoming more and more vicious in the absence of an united Arab position.

Further Press Comment

LD161428 Riyadh SPA in English 1216 GMT 16 May 82

[Text] Riyadh, 16 May (SPA) -- A Saudi newspaper today said the postponement of the Gulf Cooperation Council foreign ministers extraordinary meeting in Kuwait would allow the Gulf states more time for consultations to realize what is called a united Arab Gulf stand with regard to the issues facing them. AL-BILAD published in Jidda said the meeting was successful in devising a common Arab strategy to face the deteriorating situation in the Gulf region.

"The meeting has also shown that Gulf states are capable of realising a unified stand to ensure peace and security in the region," the paper added.

Another newspaper, AR-RIYADH, blamed the Khomeyni regime for its refusal to accept the proposals of the Islamic peace mission to settle Iraq-Iran war.

"The negative response of the Khomeyni regime will worsen the situation and invite foreign intervention in the regional affairs," the paper added.

MINISTER ON EGYPT, WAR, PALESTINIAN UPRISING

GF160430 Jidda AL-MADINAH in Arabic 11 May 82 p 1

['Awad al-Qahtani dispatch from Najran]

[Text] Interior Minister His Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has made an exclusive statement to AL-MADINAH in which he answered questions on moves being made to return to Egypt to Arab ranks, the Iraqi-Iranian war and the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territories.

Asked about Egypt's return to the Arab nation in view of the current Arab move, he said: As an Arab, I hope this will be fulfilled.

His highness said one thing should be clear and definite: There is a need to remove all the reasons which led to Egypt's estrangement from the Arab and Islamic countries. Subsequently, Egypt could reoccupy its normal place with the Arab and Islamic nation. His highness said the Egyptian people are Arabs and Muslims; they could not be otherwise.

As regards the fierce fighting between Iraq and Iran, his highness expressed hope that the war will come to an end. He said fighting between the two sides will benefit only the enemies of the Arab and Islamic nation.

On the Palestinian people's suffering in the occupied territories as a result of the Zionists' aggressiveness, his highness said: The Zionist enemy is still practicing various forms of oppression against the Arab people in Palestine and abroad. This is their fate and they have only to struggle, be patient, resist and rely on God.

His highness stressed the need for Arab support for our Palestinian brothers at every time and everywhere in order to wrest their legitimate and just rights. He said: No one can deny the legitimacy of the Palestinians struggle to restore their land and and usurped homeland.

The interior minister said: Our wise government, led by His Majesty King Khalid and his crown prince, supports with all its might the Arab brothers' resistance in the occupied territories until Jerusalem and every inch of Arab land are liberated.

His highness called for resolving minor Arab differences. He also called for achieving Arab and Islamic solidarity and for unity by mobilizing all energies to confront the enemy of Arabs and Muslims, Israel and Zionism.

Statements Analyzed

GF160543 Jidda AL-MADINAH in Arabic 11 May 82 p 2

[Editorial: "Prince Nayif Defined the Places of the Three Diseases"]

[Excerpts] Interior Minister His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has noted that Egypt's return to Arab ranks is a wish. It is hoped that this will come true after the reasons which led to Egypt's estrangement from the Arab and Islamic nation are removed. In the course of his statement he expressed his conviction, which is the conviction of everybody, that the Egyptian people are an Arab and Muslim people who could not be otherwise.

Actually, the statement by Prince Nayif -- with all its importance and weight derived from the weight of Saudi Arabia, the pioneer and leader of Arab and Islamic action -- is regarded as a great addition to the overall wishes and aspirations of the Arab and Islamic nation these days.

The repeated talk about Arab solidarity in this historic era of Arab and Islamic action cannot be explained without mentioning the significance of Egypt's return to the Arab nation to assume its vacant place among its Arab brothers and take this great nation out of this bitter situation. We must admit it has been aggravated and exacerbated during Egypt's absence and that this absence has produced a vacuum of wide and grave consequences.

In his clear statement on this issue, his highness talked about the Iranian-Iraqi war and reiterated his loyal call for putting an end to this senseless bloodshed, which has sapped Islamic strength. This was has made every Muslim forget his main enemy, who is usurping his Islamic land, desecrating holy Jerusalem and committing aggression against the Arab Palestinian people because Muslims are engaged in inter-Muslim conflicts. The enemy is trying to realize his objectives at a time when leading Muslims are busy fighting themselves and each other.

His Highness Prince Nayif also talked about our peoples' struggle in the occupied territories, lauding their gigantic efforts as a beacon, reiterating rejection of the Zionist enemy's practices and blatant defiance of all his barbaric practices and confronting them in the same way. Political confrontation between the Palestinian people and the Zionist enemy has turned into a military confrontation whose balance is tipping in favor of the owners of the legitimate right despite the incompatability in arms and potentials. The enemy possesses all kinds of weapons of destruction but our Arab Palestinian people possess sharper and more efficient weapons: faith, adherence to right and rejection of the de facto situation which the enemy has been trying to impose and on which he has been trying to base his calculations since he started to establish his illegitimate entity in 1948.

The three issues which Prince Nayif discussed -- Egypt's return, the Iraqi-Iranian war and the Palestinian people's struggle against Zionist terrorism -- are not only the crux of the Arab and Islamic issues but also the core of the international issues that threaten world peace and are pushing humanity toward the brink of war whose consequences will affect every human being on earth. Hope is still pinned on the wise people of this world, particularly the leaders of the Arab and Islamic countries, to hasten the process of finding quick and efficient solutions to these ppoblems. This is the only way to make contemporary mankind shun the dangers and miseries of a destructive war whose consequences everyone knows in advance.

UAE

PRESIDENT COMMENTS ON EFFORTS TO END GULF WAR

LD171652 Riyadh SPA in English 1220 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] Riyadh, 17 May (SPA) -- UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al Nuhayyan, in an interview published today, expressed satisfaction with the outcome of preliminary contacts to put an end to the Iran-Iraq war and said that intensive efforts would be made soon in this direction. He told the Jidda-based newspaper AL-MADINAH that the UAE would do its utmost to restore Arab solidarity and halt the Gulf war. The paper quoted Shaykh Zayid as saying "it is time for the Arabs to adopt a united stand especially in view of the Zionist onslaught against the Palestinian and Lebanese people." The UAE president added that he would visit several Arab countries soon for the purpose.

AL-MADINAH said in discussing the Gulf war, Shaykh Zayid "expressed great satisfaction with the outcome of preliminary contacts with the Iraqi and Iranian sides." The UAE has taken the initiative of trying to bring about a peaceful settlement for the 19-month-old war between the two neighboring states.

Shaykh Zayid went on: "The Iranian foreign minister has paid us a visit and we held cordial and useful discussions with him. Moreover, the coming few days will see the launching of intensive contacts to stop the shedding of Islamic blood." The UAE leader stressed the importance of Arab contacts at the current phase to restore Arab solidarity. Meanwhile, the paper reported from Tunis that the Arab League had embarked on intensive contacts with the Arab countries with the aim of "preventing a deterioration" of Arab relations. It quoted agency reports as saying that an Arab League envoy would tour some Arab countries with the purpose of trying to solve inter-Arab differences.

ZAYID, PAKISTAN'S YAGUB KHAN ON RELATIONS

GF150908 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 14 May 82 p 1

[By Ahmed Hassan]

[Excerpts] The President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al Nuhayyan said in a statement yesterday that "a strong Pakistan will contribute to the security of the Gulf." "By assisting Pakistan, we are actually helping ourselves," the president said.

Shaykh Zayid was quoted by Sahabzada Yaqub Ali Khan, foreign minister of Pakistan, in Abu Dhabi yesterday after a meeting with him to deliver a message from President Ziaul Haq. The message dealt with mutual relations. Mr Khan said he discussed with the president the views of the two countries on the Middle East problem, the situation in Afghanistan and the efforts being made to resolve these two issues. The minister said he expressed deep gratitude of the government and people of Pakistan to Shaykh Zayid for the UAE's help and assistance.

Mr Khan particularly referred to the assistance given by the UAE to help the 2.7 million Afghan refugees. He said Pakistan was spending one million dollars daily on the refugees and half of it was being contributed by "friends."

Official talks between UAE and Pakistan were held at the Foreign Ministry. Mr Khan briefed the UAE delegation on the outcome of the recently-held meeting of the Quds (Jerusalem) Committee in Fes. Mr Khan told KHALEEJ TIMES he had discussed with Mr Abdullah the urgency of the "Quds issue."

Asked about the steps being taken to resolve the intensifying misery of the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, he said the speical Quds Committee will leave for Western Europe and the United States very shortly to explain the Arab and Muslim stand on the issue.

Mr Khan, who has visited Saudi Arabia on his current tour, said he had discussed the steps being taken by the Quds Committee with King Khalid and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

Later, addressing newsmen at Abu Dhabi Hilton, Mr Khan said Afghanistan had agreed to the agenda for a tripartite meeting of Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan with the UN secretary-general in June. He said it was in important breakthrough, and the UN secretary-general would discuss the issue with the representatives of the three countries separately at Geneva.

Mr Khan said the four-point agenda included discussion on the return of the refugees to their homeland and the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

Asked whether there had been a new initiative in the solution to the Iran-Iraq dispute, Mr Khan said the peace panel of the Islamic Conference Organisation was working on a compromise formula. He, however, declined to be more specific. But he was 'hopeful' the ceasefire would be agreed upon. He said positive developments were in the offing and there was no cause for despair.

Asked whether President Ziaul Haq had discussed nuclear aid with President Francois Mitterrand on his visit to France a few months ago, Mr Khan replied in the negative.

Referring to Mrs Indira Gandhi's proposal on signing a friendship treaty with Pakistan, Mr Khan said the proposal had not come from India's official circles. Mrs Gandhi had only spoken about the proposal recently at a press conference in New Delhi, he said. He said Pakistan Government was awaiting a clarification about the proposal from the Indian Government. Mr Khan said without signing a "non-aggression pact" proposed by Pakistan, there could be no "treaty of friendship." He, however, hoped that a pact with India would create "a very favourable atmosphere" for the two countries.

Mr Khan also said the joint communique issued in Jiddah after Mrs Gandhi's recent visit to Saudi Arabia, mentioned that India had proposed to Pakistan a treaty of friendship. But, he said, his country, was still awaiting an intimation on the proposal.

Pakistan, he said, was awaiting the visit of the Indian foreign secretary to Islamabad to continue the dialogue.

Mr Khan arrived in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday on a two-day visit to the UAE. Besides Saudi Arabia he has visited Morocco and Kuwait.

Haq Message

GF151117 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0935 GMT 15 May 82

[Text] Doha, 15 May (WAKH) -- The amir of Qatar, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad al Thani has received a verbal message from Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq dealing with bilateral relations, the situation in the region and issues of common interest.

The message was conveyed by Pakistani Foreign Affairs Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Ali Khan during a meeting with his highness the amir of Qatar in the presence of Qatari Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf al Thani and Pakistani Ambassador in Doha Mr Jahanzeb Arbab. The Pakistani minister had arrived in Doha yesterday coming from Abu Dhabi in the framework of a tour he is undertaking in a number of the area countries.

Yaqub Khan Departs

GF141236 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1119 GMT 14 May 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 May (WAKH) -- Pakistani Foreign Affairs Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Ali Khan has concluded his 2-day visit to the UAE and left Abu Dhabi for Doha today. During his visit the Pakistani minister conveyed a verbal message from Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al Nuhayyan.

BRIEFS

GOVERNMENT SPENDING -- The overall amount spent by the UAE Government during 1981 is estimated to be between 42 and 43 billion dirhams, with an increase of 1 or 2 billion dirhams over the year 1980, during which 41 billion dirhams was spent. Overall foreign bilateral and multilateral aid is about 6.4 billion dirhams per annum. [Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 16 May 82 p 2 GF]

SOVIET EXPERTS TO SET UP, OPERATE HULWAN PLANTS

NC172324 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2256 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] Cairo, 17 May (MENA) -- Thirty Soviet experts will arrive in Cairo at the beginning of July to provide the expertise needed to set up and operate the new units in the iron and steel plants in Hulwan.

AL-JUMHURIYAH reports, in tomorrow's issue, a statement by engineer Mahmud Hafni, a Hulwan director, that it is expected that the number of Soviet experts will increase to 50. They will participate in setting up and operating the first installations of the new equipment at Hulwan. The paper adds: The expertise of these experts will be utilized for limited periods, extending from 5 to 8 months.

COMMITTEE ON TABAH ISSUE MEETS IN ISMAILIA

NC171812 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1740 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] Ismailia, 17 May (MENA) -- The committee on the Tabah issue began its meetings today to work out the temporary arrangements to be followed in the Tabah area and discuss the way life is to proceed there until the final status of the area is decided through arbitration. These meetings are regarded as a continuation of the first round of talks held on 3 and 4 May in Elat.

The committee meetings, which are being held in Ismailia, will continue for 2 days. The Egyptian side is headed by Rear Adm Muhsin Hamdi and the Israeli side by Brig Gen Dov Siyon. The meeting was attended by Ambassador 'Ismat Rida.

ABU GHAZALAH DENIES EGYPTIAN TROOPS IN IRAQ

NC171452 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] Cairo, 17 May (MENA) -- Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, minister of defense and war production, has emphasized that Egypt aids and supports Iraq in its war because it is an Arab state whose entity is threatened. In statements he made to the press today after opening the second African military seminar, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said that Egypt views the Iraqi-Iranian war as unnecessary and believes that it should end quickly because it is a war between two Muslim states. The defense minister called on the Islamic and Arab states to work toward ending this war in a way that there will be no loser or winner but a just solution for all.

Abu Ghazalah warned that any tremor occurring in the area as a result of this war will clearly affect the security of the Gulf and the Arab states, which regard Gulf security as completely linked with their own security. In his statement, the defense minister called on the Arab states which oppose Iraq's [word indistinct] to stop aiding Iran so that Iraq's security will not be exposed to danger.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah categorically denied the presence of any Egyptian soldiers fighting or working outside Egypt's borders, whether in Iraq or elsewhere in the world. He affirmed that no Egyptian soldier will work outside Egypt's borders. Concluding his statements, Abu Ghazalah pointed out that Egypt is supplying Iraq with all the military requirements which it cannot obtain elsewhere.

ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS TO DISCUSS IRANIAN THREAT

NC171834 Cairo MENA in English 1812 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] Riyadh, 17 May (MENA) -- An official Foreign Ministry source has said that the Arab states would apply the Arab joint defence agreement in case of any Iranian aggression on Iraqi territory.

In an interview with 'UKAZ newspaper printed today, the source added that an Arab state would notify Iran of this and would point up the necessity of Iran responding to the peaceful efforts to end the war.

The source said that an emergency conference of the Arab foreign ministers would be held shortly to examine the developments of the Iraq-Iran war and its impact on Gulf security and other issues.

The source added that the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council would convene such an emergency conference of the Arab foreign ministers to discuss Iran's continuous threats to the Gulf countries and its rejection of the peaceful efforts to end the war.

NATIONAL SECURITY THREATENED BY IRAQ-IRAN WAR

NC171752 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 May 82

[Ahmad al-Qasir commentary: "The Possible Dangers of the Continuation of the Iraq-Iran War"]

[Text] When Egypt openly and clearly declared its stand at the outset of the war between Iraq and Iran, two Muslim neighbors, by calling on the two sides to end their fighting and to repudiate the use of violence as a means for resolving the border problems existing between them, it was foresightedly aware of the grave dangers and serious consequences this war could have on the two sides directly and, indirectly on the security of the Gulf and the Arab area.

In accordance with this clear line and an objective perception of the recent developments in the Gulf area, the Egyptian leadership has reaffirmed the need for making every possible effort to end this war, especially in the wake of the new developments that have occurred in the fighting between the two countries and in view of the great possibilities that have begun looming on the horizon, threatening the safety and the security of the Arab Gulf area with all the strategic and economic importance it represents in the international sphere as well as of the consequent possibility of foreign intervention in this area and the creation of a new hotbed of conflict in the world.

Proceeding from its national, Arab and Islamic responsibility, Egypt, which believes in peaceful resolution of international problems among disputing parties, calls on the Iraqi and Iranian sides, two Muslim neighbors, to halt their military operations immediately and to pursue dialogue and negotiations as a means for resolving the pending problems between the two countries within the framework of the efforts that are currently being exerted by the Islamic and nonaligned states as well as by the international community, represented by the UN secretary general.

If on its part Egypt is calling for an end to the Iraq-Iran war as soon as possible and for the two sides to start negotiations, this emphasizes its eagerness to safeguard the security and safety of the Gulf area against any possible dangers. This is because Egypt regards the security and safety of the Gulf area as an indivisible part of the security and safety Egypt itself any threat to the Gulf area as a threat to the security and safety of Egypt itself. We would not be exaggerating if we said that threatening the Arab Gulf area constitutes a direct threat to the security of the Red Sea and the Suez Canal in view of the strong strategic and economic link between these two areas.

Finally, we say that Iran and Iraq must understand fully the extent of the possible dangers which the continuation of the war between them poses to the whole area and that it is useless for one side to achieve a limited military victory at the expense of the other in the fighting arena. They must also be well aware of the extent of the serious negative effect this war has had on the unity of the Islamic world and its causes before the entire international community -- a matter that prompts us to call for an end to this war before it is too late.

IRANIAN REPORTS ON DOWNED AIRCRAFT RIDICULED

JN170752 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0733 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] Baghdad, 17 May (INA) -- A military source has dismissed Iranian reports that three Iraqi aircraft were downed yesterday, adding these reports are completely baseless and contravene facts.

In a statement to INA, the source said the Iranian enemy media has been fabricating such reports to enhance the morale of its collapsing air force. The enemy, the source added, issues statements from time to time claiming fake victories. The source said the Iranian statement on the downing of three Iraqi aircraft is a link in the chain of lies to which the Tehran regime is resorting to mislead the Iranian people and world public opinion. Iraq, the source asserted, always announces its actual sacrifices.

The source said Communique No 712 yesterday clearly stated all Iraqi fighter planes and helicopters returned safely to base after striking at enemy targets north of Al-Muhammarah [Khorramshahr] and west of the Karun River.

The military source challenged the Iranian enemy to present one scrap of evidence to confirm its allegations.

ARMED FORCES COMMAND COMMUNIQUE NO 713

JN171650 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1605 GMT 17 May 82

[Communique No 713 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 17 May 1982]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The sons of Iraq, who have fought all the Arab nation's battles and offered huge sacrifices to safeguard its glory and dignity and liberate its usurped territories, are fighting the forces of the Iranian regime and are confronting its disgraceful attack and that of those Arabs who harbor rancor and whose reward for their dishonorable stand will be humiliation, disgrace, isolation and the curse of history. The results of the activities on the front for last night and today are as follows:

1. Our valiant forces continued to strike at and destroy the enemy forces and their concentrations north of the Al-Muhammarah [Khorramshahr] area with all kinds of weapons, killing 172 Iranians and destroying 1 tank; 2 personnel carriers; 7 vehicles, 3 loaded with personnel; 2 guns; 1 excavator; 1 gunboat, 5 observation posts; and 2 stockpiles of ammunition.

2. Our fighter aircraft and helicopters today raided enemy units, concentrations and equipment north of Al-Muhammarah and west of the Karun River, scoring direct and effective hits and inflicting heavy losses on the enemy's armor, equipment and military hardware. Walls of flame and columns of smoke could be seen. All our fighter aircraft and helicopters returned safely to base.

3. Six were killed in the Sumar area.

4. Four were killed and one 106-mm gun destroyed in the Gilan-e Gharb area.

5. Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 182 killed and 1 tank; 2 personnel carriers; 3 guns; 7 vehicles, 3 loaded with personnel; 1 excavator; 1 gunboat; 5 observation posts; and 2 stockpiles of ammunition destroyed.

5. Our sacrifices:

A. In personnel: 10 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: two vehicles damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 May 1982

CROWN PRINCE HASAN LEAVES FOR U.S. 16 MAY

JN161457 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 16 May 82

[Text] Amman, 16 May (PETRA) -- His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan today left for the United States on a working visit during which he will meet with several high-ranking U.S. officials in Washington. Prince Hasan will also give political lectures in several U.S. cities. His highness is accompanied by Minister of Court 'Amir Khammash.

MEMOS SENT TO ARAB LEAGUE, OAU ON ZAIRE

JN172037 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] Tunis -- The secretary general of the Arab League and the OAU representative in the league today received memos from the Jordanian Foreign Ministry concerning Zaire's announcement of the resumption of its diplomatic relations with Israel. In the two memos, the Jordanian Foreign Ministry asked the secretary general of the Arab League and the secretary general of the OAU to inform the member states of the gravity of the measure taken by Zaire, which had severed its relations with Israel in 1973 along with 20 other African states because of Israel's expansionist and aggressive policy. Zaire was also one of the African states which signed the declaration issued by the Arab-African summit conference held in 1977.

The Jordanian memos explained that the reasons which made the African states sever their relations with Israel still exist.

IRAQI ENVOY TARIQ 'AZIZ ARRIVES FOR SHORT VISIT

JN170951 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] Amman, 17 May (INA) -- Tariq 'Aziz, President Saddam Husayn's envoy, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, arrived here today on a short visit to Jordan at the beginning of a tour which includes a number of Arab countries.

In a statement upon arrival, 'Aziz said he is carrying a message from President Saddam Husayn to His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan, containing an invitation to attend the seventh nonaligned summit conference, slated to be held in Baghdad next September. He added that his visit to Jordan comes within the context of continued consultations between Iraq and Jordan and within the tradition of exchanging common viewpoints on pan-Arab issues.

On the military and political situation in Iraq, the Iraqi deputy prime minister said: The situation is very good and we feel completely confident the battle we are waging against the Iranian regime is a victorious battle, God willing.

'Aziz indicated that Iraq has achieved victory in protecting its territory and waters from the aggressive Iranian evil. Iraq possesses the determination and power and is backed by the Arab nation's loyal sons to continue this just battle until the Iranian regime recognizes our legitimate rights; respects our sovereignty and abandons its aggressive expansionist designs.

Meets King Husayn

JN171523 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 17 May 82

[Excerpt] Amman, 17 May (PETRA) -- His Majesty King Husayn has received a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn containing the latter's invitation to King Husayn to attend the nonaligned summit conference that will be convened in Baghdad in September.

The message was delivered to his majesty by Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, when he was received by his majesty at Al-Hummar Palace at noon today. Tariq 'Aziz briefed his majesty on the Iraqi military situation on the battlefront. They also discussed the political situation in the Arab region and its impact on the Iraqi-Iranian dispute.

His Majesty King Husayn reiterated Jordan's support and that of the Arabs, who are loyal to their principles and to the Arab identity for Iraq in its just war to regain its national rights.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran; Ahmad al-Lawzi, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; Staff Lt Gen ash-Sharif Zayd Ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

Tariq 'Aziz arrived in Amman this morning within the framework of a tour which will also take him to Kuwait and the YAR.

Departs for Saudi Arabia

JN171925 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, left Amman this afternoon for Saudi Arabia. In a departure statement, 'Aziz said: During my meeting with His Majesty King Husayn, we exchanged views on current Arab issues and circumstances and the developments of the Iraqi-Iranian war.

'Aziz added: As usual, His Majesty King Husayn's words showed clarity of vision and farsightedness, especially in noting the dangers which the Arab nation might face in the absence of Arab solidarity and preparedness to cope with challenges.

'Aziz said: His majesty asked me to convey his greetings to President Saddam Husayn and his best wishes to Iraq for prestige and victory in its just battle in defense of Arab rights in the eastern gateway of the Arab homeland.

'Aziz was seen off at Amman Airport by Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah and a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials.

YOUTHS KILLED BY SYRIAN FORCES IN AL-KAHHALAH

NC171852 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] The series of security surprises extended to Al-Kahhalah today. Two were killed and another wounded by rockets fired by a Syrian Deterrent Forces patrol at some areas in the township and its youths. The unprovoked attack caused disbelief and denunciation.

At 1700 [1500 GMT], the inhabitants of Al-Kahhalah were surprised when successive artillery shells were unexpectedly fired at various areas, killing two young men -- Tony Khalil Bizzano and Fadi Halim Bizzani -- both of whom were under 20 and were killed instantly, and wounding Rashid Khattal Bizzani.

The causes of this attack are not known yet, though the Syrian Deterrent Forces claimed they were chasing a young man who was carrying a gun. The Deterrent Forces have surrounded Al-Kahhalah township and blocked the general highway.

A while ago, radio correspondents reported that the Deterrent Forces have positioned themselves at the entrances and approaches to the township. They have also positioned themselves in some buildings overlooking the entrances.

Deterrent Forces Statement

NC172258 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 17 May 82

[17 May Arab Deterrent Forces Command statement]

[Text] At 1600 [1400 GMT] this afternoon, 17 May 1982, three Arab Deterrent Forces supply trucks were fired at while they were passing through Al-Kahhalah township by armed persons who were positioned among the houses at the main junction inside the township. Immediately after that an Arab Deterrent Forces patrol was sent to investigate. Gunfire was directed at the patrol from the same location and it returned the fire. The armed persons escaped in the direction of the valley south of the township. Traffic stopped on the highway for a while and then normalcy was restored.

It was later learned that three persons were hit. One of them is Rashid Khattal Bizzani, who was detained by the Arab Deterrent Forces and was released a week ago. The investigation sources believe, so far, that the gunfire directed at the Arab Deterrent Forces was the result of an individual whim.

GENERAL STRIKE OBSERVED IN SIDON 17 MAY

NC171330 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 May 82

[Excerpt] Attention riveted today on the measures that could be adopted in Sidon following the violent clashes that occurred and the great damage caused to several buildings there. Sidon today observed a general strike that paralyzed all official and public activity, including work at the Az-Zahraini oil refinery.

FATAH OFFICIAL EULOGIZES STUDENT UNION MARTYR

JN141856 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1745 GMT 14 May 82

[Text] A ceremony eulogizing the heroic martyr 'Ali Hasan [head of Arab University Student Union] was held this afternoon in Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir Hall at the Arab University of Beirut. It was attended by Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Fatah Central Committee member, and a large number of Palestine Revolution and Lebanese Nationalist movement cadres.

Brother Abu Iyad gave a speech at the ceremony in which he stressed the need for strong solidarity with the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and Syria against the conspiracies which aim to strike at the unity of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

Brother Abu Iyad asserted that the Zionist military adventure which the enemy leaders talk about and reinforce with large forces will not be a mere military picnic in an arid strip of land.

Brother Ma'n Bashur spoke at the ceremony followed by speeches on behalf of the Palestinian students union and the students union and the students union of the Arab University of Beirut. At the conclusion of the ceremony the body of the martyr 'Ali Hasan was driven in a solemn procession to Beirut International Airport. His body will be flown to Amman for burial.

PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE DENIES AS-SAFIR ALLEGATION

NC152055 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 May 82

[15 May statement issued by the General Directorate of the Presidential Office in Beirut]

[Text] In today's edition, Saturday, 15 May 1982, and on page 2 of its issue No 2,884, the newspaper AS-SAFIR carries a news item entitled: A crisis in relations between the president of the republic and the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies.

In this item the paper carries an interview attributed to a minister close to His Excellency President of the Republic Ilyas Sarkis in which the minister quotes his excellency the president. The General Directorate of the Presidential Office announces that the content of this news item is completely unfounded.

VOL REPORTS RECENT CLASHES IN ALEPPO, SYRIA

NC171950 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] According to reports the Voice of Lebanon has received, three Syrian soldiers were assassinated at 0800 today on Al-Baron Street [in Aleppo] at the hands of the Muslim Brotherhood. Immediately after the assassinations, the roads were cut off, the area was surrounded and a number of young men were arrested for investigation.

Bomb explosions were heard yesterday, Sunday, in the (Al-Kallasinah) locality. The reasons for the results of these explosions, which caused terror, are not known yet.

Last Saturday, the special squads surrounded the area of the ancient citadel and the surrounding neighborhood after receiving information that there was a Muslim Brotherhood headquarters in [word indistinct]. Clashes followed, resulting in the death of about 5 soldiers and 20 Muslim Brotherhood members. About 50 persons were arrested and quantities of ammunition, germ bombs [qanabil jurthumiyah] and military equipment were confiscated.

A wave of terror prevails in the city, which is caused by kidnappings of babies, robberies and holdups, especially following the recent aggressions which had already aggravated the situation.

BRIEFS

NEW IRANIAN AMBASSADOR -- Sheykh Musa Fakhra' i-Rohani, the newly-appointed ambassador to Lebanon, arrived in Beirut last week to take up his diplomatic post. The information department at the embassy said that Fakhra' had served as a liaison officer for Iranian students in Europe before his appointment as ambassador to Lebanon. Prior to that, Fakhra' had served as an elected member of the Higher Consultation Council for Information which was formed after the revolution. [Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 3-9 May 82 pp 14-15 NC]

PRESIDENT AL-ASAD CABLES THANKS TO AL-QADHDHAFI

LD160910 Tripoli JANA in English 0810 GMT 16 May 82

[Text] Tripoli, 16 May (JANA) -- Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the revolution, received yesterday a telegram from President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria following his departure from Tripoli.

The telegram reads:

"Brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great Al Fateh Revolution, at the end of my visit to the jamahiriyah, I would like to express my personal gratitude and of the Syrian delegation accompanying me for the warm reception you gave us during our visit to the jamahiriyah. I would also like to express my confidence towards the views which were exchanged on the links between our countries. This, I trust, will contribute greatly to our joint struggle against the enemy of our nation, which will also strengthen our steadfastness and confrontation against the designs which threaten the future of our nation.

"I wish you happiness and good health and for the Libyan people glory and progress."

CABINET DISCUSSES AL-ASAD VISITS 17 MAY

JN171434 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm presided over a Cabinet meeting at 1200 today. The Cabinet reviewed the political developments in the region and their impact on the pan-Arab struggle arenas at this stage of the struggle of the Arab nation against its enemies.

'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, explained the important national results of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad's visits to the two fraternal countries, Libya and Algeria, and their decisive effect on the formulation of the direct and effective stand of the pan-Arab Steadfastness and Confrontation Front countries on confronting of U.S. moves and the attempts in this region linked to these moves.

The Cabinet then discussed several decrees and projects listed on its agenda and approved some of them. The meeting ended at 1400.

TISHRIN REITERATES POSITION ON ISRAEL, EGYPT

JN121123 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0800 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] Damascus, 12 May (SANA) -- In a comment today, TISHRIN says those who seek Egypt's return to the Arab fold must have heard Ashraf Ghurbal, the ambassador of the Egyptian regime in the United States, when he said, and I quote: The Israeli flag is now waving in Cairo. Why can't we expect Arab flags also to wave in Cairo so Egypt can play the role of mediator between the two sides?

The paper adds: Egyptian mediation between some Arab regimes and Israel is, therefore, preplanned, or to be more precise, conditional on the hoisting of these regimes' flags alongside the Israeli flag in Cairo.

TISHRIN says: What is most serious is not the mediation or its procedures, but its purport and objectives. The final aim is to normalize any future relations between the figureheads of these Arab regimes and the Zionist entity, just as Egypt has normalized relations with this entity.

The paper continues: This means Israel would not just be a U.S. agent in the region, as it is now, but a major power spreading its absolute military and economic control, through which it could implement its expansionist plans and achieve its aggressive objectives.

TISHRIN says: What is also very serious is that all these plans are timed to the meeting of a war council, comprising Israeli militarists and politicians, and the new Israeli attacks on Lebanon. All this proves the United States and Israel are implementing a joint plan to dominate the entire region. What they failed to achieve through political means, they will try to achieve through military aggression.

The paper says: Syria has already declared it will remain firm in confronting any Israeli aggression against Lebanon. As a matter of fact, Syria has made it very clear through its official spokesman that it will not hesitate to direct its missiles against enemy planes if they entered the operational area of these missiles.

TISHRIN concludes: Undoubtedly, the mere issuance of this declaration means a great deal not only with regard to Syria's brave stand toward the enemy's aggression, but also with regard to what will be achieved by this stand as the rallying point for those Arab strugglers who firmly and determinedly refuse to see their Arab homeland become a vital field for enemy ambitions or an arena for it and the figureheads of treason who tamper with this homeland.

AL-AHMAR RECEIVES IRAQI OPPOSITION LEADER

JN171443 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, this morning received 'Aziz Muhammad, Iraqi Communist Party secretary general.

Discussion during the meeting focused on the most important political events taking place in the Arab region, particularly the Iraqi-Iranian war, which was fabricated by the agent regime of Saddam Husayn against the Iranian revolution and the role that Iraqi nationalist forces are assuming to save Iraq.

TISHRIN VIEWS PURPOSE OF DRAPER'S MIDEAST TOUR

JN141102 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 14 May 82

[Text] Damascus, 14 May (SANA) -- In today's editorial, the newspaper TISHRIN discusses the forthcoming visit to Lebanon by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Morris Draper. Concerning the nature of Draper's talks with the Lebanese officials, TISHRIN asserts that Draper will try to intimidate the Lebanese officials by proposing that if they want to avoid any Israeli aggression, they should try to divest the Palestinian resistance of Syrian cover, otherwise Israel will liquidate the resistance by means of aggression against Lebanon.

Continuing, TISHRIN says Syria knows that what Draper will say has nothing to do with the normalization of the situation in Lebanon. The Americans do not intend to withdraw the Zionists from southern Lebanon, nor will they cancel the statelet of their agent Sa'd Haddad. Rather, they are seeking to dismember the Syrian-Palestinian-Lebanese alliance, withdraw the Deterrent Forces, liquidate the Palestinian resistance and create a vital location for Israel in the south.

TISHRIN asserts that Syria and the Palestinian resistance are well aware of these aggressive objectives. They also know that only through their solid alliance and unity of their principles and objectives can they wreck these hostile designs. The paper says: Draper should understand that the presence of the Deterrent Forces in Lebanon is a legitimate one dictated by the common pan-Arab interest. Also the presence of the Palestinian resistance in Lebanon is a legitimate one as stipulated in the agreements signed by Lebanon.

TWO LIKUD MK'S TO RESIGN; ONE TO JOIN OPPOSITION

TA180545 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0542 GMT 18 May 82

[Text] Knesset members Yitzhaq Peretz and Amnon Lynn are resigning from the Likud. This has been learned by our correspondent Amnon Nadav. Amnon Lynn is to join the Alignment as a faction, while Yitzhaq Peretz will not, for the moment, join the Alignment, but will found a joint front [hazit meshutefet] with it.

NRP AGREES TO SUPPORT LIKUD COALITION IN KNESSET

TA171051 Jerusalem POST in English 17 May 82 pp 1, 2

[Report by Sarah Honig]

[Excerpts] The Likud government cannot lose, no matter how a no-confidence vote goes in the Knesset, due to a recent agreement between the prime minister and the National Religious Party. The NRP will not, according to the understanding, join an alternative Labour-led coalition if the government falls as a result of an opposition initiative. This was told to the Jerusalem POST by a reliable source yesterday.

The agreement between Prime Minister Menahem Begin and the NRP means that if the opposition triumphs in a no-confidence motion, Begin will be granted his wish of early elections, without the danger of his coalition partners joining an Alignment coalition. Begin is confident of returning to office with an increased majority. The NRP has been the main force preventing early elections because of poll predictions that its present power might be reduced by half or more.

The NRP has made it clear that if Begin deliberately initiates any move to bring down his government, in order to obtain early elections, such as resigning, or if a massive liberal rebellion seals the government's fate, the party will feel free to enter a Labour-led coalition. But the two sides agree that if the government falls as a result of any Knesset move initiated by the opposition, the NRP will stick by the Likud.

From the NRP's view, the agreement was contracted to discourage Begin from seeking to advance the elections and also to remove the chief incentive from the Alignment in tabling frequent no-confidence motions. The NRP, however, will have to keep its mavericks in line. MK Hayim Druckman has reportedly already promised to vote with the government, and it is thought that the party will impose its discipline on MK Avraham Melamed. A Likud source told the POST last night: "We will be happy no matter what happens. If the Alignment succeeds in bringing down the government, we will have the elections we want. If we survive the vote, the government continues as before."

ALIGNMENT TO SUBMIT NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION 19 MAY

TA172024 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 May 82

[Excerpt] The Alignment faction decided today to submit a motion of no confidence in the government because of the failure of the government's economic policy. The motion will be submitted for discussion on 19 May. Our correspondent Yoram Ronen reports the coalition and opposition factions have begun to mobilize their members who are abroad so that they will return in time for the vote.

RECORD CONSUMER PRICE INDEX INCREASE FOR APRIL

TA141353 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 14 May 82

[Excerpt] The consumer price index rose by 10.7 percent last month. Since the beginning of the year prices have gone up by 33 percent. The April increase was the highest recorded in the last 29 years and if the present rate continues inflation will reach 136 percent by year's end.

FINANCE MINISTER ON INFLATION, U.S. AID

TA141547 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1415 GMT 14 May 82

[Excerpt] Ben-Gurion Airport, 14 May -- Finance Minister Yoram Aridor returned at noon today aboard an El Al plane from New York. Mr Aridor ended a 10-day visit abroad, in the course of which, he represented Israel at the swearing-in ceremony of the Costa Rican president. The finance minister told an ITIM correspondent he is not ready to comment on the rise of the consumer price index and a statement on this subject would be issued by his office.

The finance minister said he learned about the decision of the Costa Rican Government to return its embassy to Jerusalem at the swearing-in ceremony of the president of this country. The minister added that he handled some arrangements concerning this decision on the spot but declined to elaborate on the nature of these arrangements.

The finance minister also said that during his short stay in Washington, he met with several senators and discussed with them financial aid to Israel. He refused to say whether the possibility of increasing the grants at the expense of loans was discussed.

The minister was asked to comment on the fact that inflation has increased in Israel, while inflation is being curbed worldwide: in the United States, in some European countries and particularly in Turkey. The minister's reply was: "Inflation is not increasing in Israel. It has decreased over the past year. There are countries that are ready to pay the price of high unemployment in return for decrease in inflation. Whoever understands this will not suggest we imitate these plans and increase unemployment in Israel. In my opinion, this is severe, even if it may greatly reduce inflation. I intend to do my best not to give in to pressures which might lead to worse unemployment."

SHAMIR SUGGESTS TABAH DISPUTE COMPROMISE

TA171122 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 17 May 82 p 1

[Report by Dalya Shehori]

[Text] Last week Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir sent a letter of reply to Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, saying Israel and Egypt should -- in accord with the peace treaty -- follow a compromise path in order to resolve by themselves the dispute over the border demarcation at Tabah.

The peace treaty says problems arising between the sides will be settled by the parties through negotiations, compromise or arbitration. 'Ali's letter to Shamir said that, in his view, the negotiations stage between Israel and Egypt over the border demarcation at Tabah had ended (without results). Therefore he proposed beginning the arbitration stage.

Shamir replied to this that he did not believe Israel and Egypt had already completed the negotiations stage, but if this was the Egyptian foreign minister's reply, Shamir was prepared to accept it and he proposed now opening the compromise [pishur] stage, in accordance with the peace treaty. Compromise arbitration does not commit the sides. This is in contrast to agreed arbitration, which does commit the sides.

JOINT MILITARY COMMITTEE DISCUSSES TABAH ISSUE

TA171914 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] The joint Israeli-Egyptian Military Committee today discussed the border demarcation of Tabah, south of Elat, in a meeting in Ismailia. The two delegations tried to find temporary arrangements that would regulate access to the contentious area until a final solution to the problem is found. The Israeli delegation was headed by Brig Gen Dov Si'on, and the Egyptian delegation was headed by Gen Muhsin Hamdi.

SHARON SPEAKS AT AIRBASE, VIEWS CEASE-FIRE

TA171625 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon has said Israel's enemies had better not exploit our restraint, and should understand the cease-fire agreement in the north is also binding on all other fronts and Israel firmly insists on this. Speaking at a ceremony in which the Ramon and 'Uvda airbases in the Negev were proclaimed operational, Minister Sharon told the pilots that in the last few months they had been called upon to act in Lebanon in order to deter the Palestinian terrorists acting under Syria's aegis, and in so doing have contributed to the peace process. No Arab air force has succeeded, or will one ever succeed, in destroying an Israeli Air Force base. However, the defense minister emphasized, for the sake of peace Israel agreed to give up the Sinai airfields.

Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports the new Negev airfields are built based on the lessons learned from the Yom Kippur war and all the squadrons were absorbed in them 3 months ago. Air Force Commander Maj Gen David 'Ivri said the new airbases at Ramon and 'Uvda are perhaps the best in the world.

COMMENTATOR CRITICIZES CHIEF OF STAFF REMARKS

TA171605 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 May 82 p 9

[Commentary by Eliyahu Salpeter]

[Text] The phenomenon of the chief of staff putting himself at the head of the "war party" in the national debate -- common in Latin America -- has, of course, gained the main interest in the reaction to the interview Lieutenant General Eytan granted to YEDI'OT AHARONOT on 14 May. However, it is worth examining the entire strange world of the chief of staff, as it is depicted in his statements, his views and his memory:

-- "There was no consensus on the eve of the 6-day war, either in the army or the government and the nation neither understood nor knew anything," the chief of staff stated.

Many things may be said about the "waiting period"; an absence of a national consensus is the last of them. At all the meetings held in the Ministry of Defense, the general staff and the units of the reserves that had been called up, we did not hear of anyone in the IDF who thought there was no need to break through the blockade and the threat posed by Colonel an-Nasir in Sharm ash-Shaykh and the Sinai. The national unity government established on the eve of the 6-day war was the genuine expression of that consensus.

-- "The same thing happened in the Yom Kippur war: Yes to a deterrent strike, no to a deterrent strike."

Was there a public debate about a war of deterrence on the eve of the Yom Kippur war? Did anyone in the public know about the Egyptian military preparations and the professional differences of opinion in the intelligence community about the significance of the Arab armies' movements? What has this to do with a national consensus?

-- "...They will tell us: Sit still while our settlements are being shelled?"

We are being told -- and there are also people who are saying this in public -- sit still before you are shelled, as a reaction to massive bombings. [sentence as published]

-- "I do not see on television the precise hits by the Katyushas (in Israel) but I see all the children and women who ran over the mine."

In the meantime they are showing the children and women who were killed in the bombing of the Beirut center. Is that better for Israel?

-- "Since I have built up a superb establishment at a cost of billions of dollars, I can and must use it."

Without thinking of what the views are of thousands of officers and hundreds of thousands of soldiers -- and the chiefs of staff who served before him -- who have turned and are turning night into day in order to build up the IDF on the chief of staff's modesty, we ought to ask: Is the chief of staff aware his remarks are almost literally identical with the classical claim made by generals who wage war because they want to use the weapons in their possession? He certainly did not mean this and he certainly also hopes his remarks will not reach the ears of all those in the U.S. Congress who have reservations about the level of military aid to Israel.

-- "This is how I intepret the proportions (of the reaction). It bears no relation to their strength, but is relative to our ability."

A proportional relation or a relative proportion?

-- "In Vietnam, when they played according to the guerrillas' rules, the United States with its enormous power was the loser."

For some reason, the literature about the Vietnam war actually says the opposite: That the United States lost because it did not play according to the guerrilla rules, but used massive mechanized fighting methods (as the chief of staff is recommending against the PLO) with which it is impossible to defeat a guerrilla movement.

-- "They were saved (the PLO in Lebanon) by the cease-fire. You should know they were on their knees a year ago."

The IDF probably did not stop the strikes at the PLO in order to save it, especially when it was on its knees, but because the United States forced us to do so in order to prevent the fighting from expanding, and because of Saudi Arabian pressure. Not a word is said in the interview about the fact that if we act again, we will not be forced again to "save" the PLO.

-- "So there is no alternative to fighting them, although I am not saying this terrorism will stop completely. We are dealing with Arabs who do not want us here (...) we are speaking about coexistence. They are speaking about nonexistence. That is -- existing without us."

That is -- in the chief of staff's opinion -- the confrontation is not with the PLO, but with the Palestinian people or the entire Arab world and the outcome means: either them or us. That is , A) an action against the PLO in Lebanon will not solve the problem; B) no coexistence between the Jewish and Arab nations is possible and we are sentenced to live forever by our swords.

-- Question: "Did they tell you this week they want a large-scale action?" The chief of staff said: "Yes."

Question: "Who, other than the head of the Metulla council, wants a large-scale military action?"

Answer: "We did not discuss an action. They want no Katyushas to fall on them."

A) If an action was not discussed, how did they say they want an action? By telepathy?

B) If the Katyushas fell after the Israeli bombing, if the heads of the settlements say they do not want Katyushas to fall, do they mean to say they want an action, in the wake of which Katyushas will fall?

-- "And thanks -- I do not know to whom -- that we have such a great standing army that we do not need to call up reserves, as happened before the 6-day war." It has already been noted to whom the thanks are due. The decision to enlarge the standing army was made after the Yom Kippur war by the then defense minister, Shim'on Peres, and the then chief of staff, Mordekhay Gur.

-- "Neither am I saying that if the terrorists disappear from Lebanon, they will not appear somewhere else." Does the chief of staff mean by this there is no military solution to the problem of the PLO?

TUNISIA MAY RECOGNIZE 'ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE'

TA171227 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] Tunisia will recognize Israel's existence and negotiate with it in the future if this is approved in the conference of Arab countries' leaders. This was stated by Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali.

Our Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a reports that after talks in Tunisia with a delegation from the U.S. Pentagon, the Tunisian prime minister said his country is considering a possible plan on negotiating with Israel. He emphasized the United States and Tunisia see eye-to-eye on the urgent need to establish peace in the Middle East. The Saudi political plan, Mzali said, is still pending and discussions will be held at the upcoming Arab summit on adopting the eight-point Saudi plan including the eighth point [as heard] which talks of recognizing Israel.

ZAIRIAN ENVOY INVITES PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT

AB171253 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1130 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] Another invitation for the leader, Mobutu Sese Seko, was given yesterday in Israel to the Zairian head of state's special envoy, Nimyaidika Ngimbi, who went to Israel over the weekend to settle the last details of the resumption of diplomatic relations between Kinshasa and Tel Aviv. Citzen Ngimbi expressed to the Israelis the friendship of the Zairian people and particularly of their leader, Gen Mobutu Sese Seko, who received his paracommando training in that country. The Israeli prime minister, Mr Menahem Begin, has accepted an invitation to visit Zaire which was delivered to him by the director of the office of the founding chairman. The train of the resumption [of relations] has therefore started. Now that the reasons which had justified the breaking of relations between our two countries have been transcended, it is only normal that Kinshasa and Tel Aviv should resume their relations as the Executive Council's spokesman, Kande Dzambulate, state commissioner for information, culture and arts, said last Friday.

KENYA REPORTEDLY WILL NOT RESUME RELATIONS

TA171010 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] In Nairobi this morning it was stated that Kenya does not intend, at this stage, to follow Zaire and resume diplomatic relations with Israel. The Kenyan paper NATION reports Kenya has no reason to renew ties with Israel. This move is not compatible with Kenya's national interest.

The paper says that following Zaire's move the pressure on countries such as Kenya and Liberia, which are considered moderate, has increased. However, Kenya does not want to undermine African solidarity, especially when Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi is currently serving as the acting president of the Organization of African Unity.

The Kenyan paper says relations with the Arab countries are more important to Kenya than relations with Israel and there is no room to sacrifice relations with the Arabs for this. The paper notes an Israeli representative who is dealing with nonpolitical issues is in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE BODY TO MEET IN JERUSALEM

TA161032 Jerusalem POST in English 17 May 82 p 1

[Report by Benny Morris]

[Text] Israeli officials see "major political significance" in the convening in Jerusalem tomorrow of a regular session of the Political Committee of the Council of Europe, the representative body of the 21 democratic states of Western and Central Europe. The final decision by the council to hold the committee meeting in Jerusalem was taken two months ago over strenuous objections of Arab states and diplomats, the officials said. They emphasized the importance of the achievement to Israel's struggle to obtain recognition of Jerusalem as the capital.

It is understood that a number of countries, including Spain, Greece, Denmark and Portugal, were deterred by the Arab campaign and will not send representatives. But major European states, such as Britain, the German Federal Republic and Italy will be represented. It is unclear whether French parliamentarians will attend.

For the past seven years, members of the council's scientific, economic and cultural committees have held sessions in Jerusalem. "This time, however," said a senior Israeli official, "the Arab campaign against the meeting was extremely vociferous. And though all the committees are formally equal in importance, there is added significance to the Political Committee's meeting in Jerusalem, without a doubt.

About 20 members of the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe -- all members of the 35-member Political Committee -- are expected to attend the two-day session, which will include intensive discussion of the Middle East conflict by the members among themselves and with Israeli leaders. Knesset Secretary Netanel Lorch said the meeting will be opened in the Knesset. The members are scheduled to meet President Yitzhaq Navon, Prime Minister Menahem Begin, Knesset Speaker Menahem Savidor and Labour Party leader Shim'on Peres.

The European parliamentarians will also visit Yad Vashem and Caesarea, lunch with archeologist Yiga'el Yadin and hear a lecture by Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche. They will meet Histadrut Secretary General Yeruham Meshel.

Members Arrive

TA171900 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1745 GMT 17 May 82

[Excerpts] Ben-Gurion Airport, 17 May -- The chairman of Council of Europe's Political Committee, Tom (Irvin), said on Monday that no special political significance should be attached to the fact that the committee is meeting in Jerusalem. Mr (Irvin) was speaking to an ITIM correspondent at Ben-Gurion Airport on his arrival together with 19 committee members. The 2-day committee session here will discuss a long list of subjects, excluding Middle East matters. The committee's permanent seat is in Strasbourg, France.

Twenty of the committee's 35 members have come to Israel, including the representatives of Germany, Sweden, Italy, Lichtenstein, Britain, Switzerland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Iceland, Norway, the Netherlands and Austria. Mr (Irvin), the committee's British representative, said one of the subjects to be discussed in Jerusalem is the continuation of Turkey's membership in the Council of Europe. Criticism has been made of its membership since the military, which rules there today, seized power. The committee must report to the Council of Europe on the situation in Turkey before the year is out.

Middle East affairs will not be discussed because the council has set up a special subcommittee to deal with them. The subcommittee is slated to visit Lebanon this year, but a date for the visit has not yet been fixed. It should be noted that the representatives of Greece, Portugal and Spain are not taking part in the delegation and, as reported, they did not come because the session is being held in Jerusalem.

The committee members were received at the airport by Knesset representatives and Knesset members Sara Doron and Shlomo Hilel, who are the observers on behalf of the Knesset at the Council of Europe's discussions.

French Envoy To Participate

TA180926 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 18 May 82

[Text] This evening one of the representatives from France will join the meeting of the Council of Europe's Political Committee in Jerusalem. He is a member of the Socialist Party. He wants to prove France is not boycotting the session because of the fact it is being held in Jerusalem. The Paris External Relations Ministry and the Socialist Party put pressure on [illegible] to attend the meeting. The umbrella organization of the Jewish organizations in France has expressed regret at the pressure.

BEGIN, U.S. PRESIDENT TO MEET 21 JUNE

TA171940 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin will meet with U.S. President Ronald Reagan in Washington on Monday, 21 June. Our U.S. correspondent Dan Raviv reports this and adds the meeting is being defined as an exchange of ideas between the two officials. After the meeting Mr Begin will return to Israel. Three days before the meeting, the prime minister will deliver a speech at a special UN General Assembly session to discuss the issue of strategic arms limitation.

RESULTS OF U.S. POLL REPORTEDLY CONCEALED

TA171129 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 17 May 82 p 1

[Report by the political correspondent]

[Text] Last night government sources expressed anger at the fact that the results of a public opinion poll conducted at the request of the WASHINGTON POST (and the ABC television network) had not been published because the results, which were sympathetic to Israel, did not, according to the sources, fit in with the expectations of those who had requested the poll.

Two-thirds of those persons asked said they supported Israel, compared with one-third who supported the Arab position. Some 48 percent of the persons polled said Israel had made a greater contribution than the Arab countries to achieving peace in the Middle East. Some 29 percent thought the Arab countries had made a greater contribution.

In the view of 55 percent of those asked, the PLO is not the sole representative of the Palestinian people, compared with 25 percent who regard the PLO as the sole representative.

The results of the public opinion poll were publicized by ABC a few days ago but concealed by the Washington POST.

COMPROMISE ACCEPTED ON DRUZE IDENTITY CARDS

TA171016 Jerusalem POST in English 17 May 82 p 1

[Text] One element in the crisis between the authorities and the Golan Druze over identity cards has apparently been resolved following a compromise proposal by Shinuy leader Amnon Rubinstein, MK, one of the country's best-known legal experts. Matityahu Shmulevitz, director-general of the prime minister's office, told Rubinstein last night that the Golan Druze have agreed to his proposal that they carry a supplementary document, attesting that they do not possess Israeli citizenship. This document is a standard certificate that the Interior Ministry issues to any resident who needs to prove that he is not an Israeli.

Rubenstein said last night that he suggested issuing this certificate 3 weeks ago, but the Interior Ministry for some reason rejected the proposal. Shmulevitz, however, accepted it and put it to Druze leaders last Thursday, the Jerusalem POST understands.

The remaining important element in the crisis is the classification "nationality" in the identity card. Many Golan Druze want to carry the classification "Arab," but the Israeli authorities insist on "Druze," as is the practice with regard to Druze citizens in pre-1967 Israel.

Interior Ministry Denial

TA172015 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] The Interior Ministry has denied knowledge of the prime minister's agreement to grant Druze in the Golan Heights noncitizenship certificates as proposed by MK Amnon Rubinstein. According to Rubinstein, the prime minister had agreed to grant the Druze certificates attesting to their not being Israeli citizens despite opposition to this by the interior minister. However, from the Interior Ministry it was reported to our correspondent that no directive has yet been received to this effect.

BEGIN REJECTS DRUZE PROPOSAL ON ID CARDS

TA152018 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 15 May 82

[Text] Prime Minister Begin this evening rejected outright a proposal raised by representatives of the Golan Druze that their nationality be noted as Arab instead of Druze on their identification cards. The prime minister said Israeli law stipulates that Jewish, Arab or Druze be noted under their nationality on the identification cards and that this law applies to the Golan Heights just as it does to Tel Aviv, 'Akko or Daliyat al-Karmel.

BOMB EXPLODES IN JERUSALEM, NO CASUALTIES

TA171113 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] A small bomb exploded in a bus stop on the Hebron road in Jerusalem an hour ago. Nobody was hurt and slight damage was caused. This is reported by our correspondent Moti 'Eden. An ITIM correspondent reports police and border police forces are now closing the southern entrance to Jerusalem and searching all bus stops in the city.

MILSON INTERVIEWED ON WEST BANK POLICY

TA141540 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 14 May 82 pp 4, 5 Weekly Supplement

[Interview with the head of the civilian administration in Judaea and Samaria, Prof Menahem Milson by Nira Lanir-Palewsky -- date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Question: You are not in charge of daily security activities, nevertheless, is it possible to conduct the policy of a civilian administration separately from daily military-security activities?

Answer: Anything that happens has an impact, it is impossible to act separately. There were disturbances and we know they were organized by PLO inciters. Casualties were inflicted during the dispersal of the demonstrations; this causes us pain and is difficult for us as well as for the population.

Question: Are daily security activities coordinated with you?

Answer: All activities which are the responsibility of the civilian administration are coordinated with me. In fields which are not our responsibility, such as daily security, our involvement is naturally not a decisive factor.

Question: In that case, what is your opinion about the IDF's recent activities?

Answer: I understand you are referring to the situation in the last few weeks. As I noted, this is painful and difficult for us. I know that nobody in the IDF sought a deterioration in the situation. In my opinion, one should strive to curb the disturbances without inflicting any casualties.

Question: Is that possible?

Answer: I do not deal with this area and therefore I can only say that we should try to do it; I know that instructions to this effect have been issued. It should be remembered that in an atmosphere of disturbances the IDF is not the sole factor in the arena; there are also instigators who harbor different and opposite intentions, they want to provoke violent confrontations.

Question: Is progress toward the goal of a local leadership, excluding the PLO, possible given the fact the government's avowed policy is annexation?

Answer: The civilian administration was established within the political framework of the Camp David accords. One of the civilian administration's goals is to create a situation in the field that would make it impossible for the PLO to undermine the Camp David accords. We know that after the first phase of the accords is over we will have to move on to the second stage which pertains to a solution of the Palestinian problem. We are also aware if a political settlement is not achieved between us and the Palestinians it will be difficult or impossible to reach a stable and permanent settlement in the Middle East.

We also know the PLO is trying with all its might to prevent the Palestinians from joining the autonomy negotiations. There can be no autonomy without the agreement and the willingness of the Palestinians. A unilateral or imposed autonomy is a paradox. The PLO realizes this and hence its efforts to prevent a settlement. We must reach a situation where the Palestinians can take part in the process. The defense minister has more than once explicitly stated we are not demanding the Palestinians agree to the permanent solution the Israeli Government wants. We are not preventing them from favoring a Palestinian state, reannexation or a federation with Jordan; we only demand they do not support terror or the PLO.

These are our political guidelines. Hence, our struggle -- both of Israel and of the civilian administration as the executor of its policy -- is against the PLO rather than against the Palestinians and we force ourselves to distinguish between the PLO and its supporters and the general Palestinian population. Consequently, any activities that are not guided by such a distinction are harmful. Of course, we must meticulously choose the proper means not to hurt the general population.

Question: Does the plan to settle 100,000 Jews in Samaria ease, accelerate or make difficult the establishment of the autonomy and the Palestinians' agreement to it?

Answer: Many people in Israel and abroad believe the declarations by Israeli leaders regarding a permanent solution are keeping the Palestinians from joining the process. However, from discussions and documents we have learned that after the Camp David accords were signed there were senior personalities in the territories who expressed a positive opinion about the Palestinians' interest in joining the process. The PLO did not hasten to permit them to join and the personalities kept writing memos.

For example we came across a 16-paragraph memo sent by Gaza Mayor Rashad ash-Shawwa to the PLO leadership in the summer of 1980. The PLO leadership replied with a flat no, banning such a move and included several warnings; Ash-Shawwa was deterred. The main reason keeping the Palestinians from joining the process is the PLO leadership's opposition. In other words, some people in the territories believed it would be worthwhile to join the process but they did not because the PLO did not consent to it. They are not brave enough. I have no complaints about them. There were more courageous people and less courageous people among them but there were not many in either camp. It is necessary to have a public situation which would make it possible for them to join. If the PLO is the one who has the last decisive word, there will be no agreement. In January 1982 'Arafat said, "I have never aimed for a peaceful settlement."

Question: Well, it is not claimed that the PLO wants to join the process and that Israel is maneuvering it out of it.

Answer: That is correct. However, 'Arafat's remarks prove the war is not the flu; it is neither an incurable disease nor the flu. Because of our good intentions, we tend to diagnose the disease incorrectly. This tendency stems from the difficulties involved in a long struggle. Yet, we must not delude ourselves: When the PLO says no, we must weaken its strength so that it does not remain an eternal obstacle to peace.

Question: I asked whether massive settlement in Judaea and Samaria is instrumental for the cooption of the Palestinians into the peace process and for weakening the PLO or whether it hinders them from joining?

Answer: The most important factor in this issue is the PLO's "no" which was not only expressed verbally. Their refusal is coupled with heavy political, financial and economic pressure along with terror.

Question: You quoted the defense minister's remarks about the Palestinians who will join the process, on the condition they oppose terror and the PLO. Will people who are not opposed to the PLO but rather support it be allowed to be elected to the institutions of the autonomy? Will there not be somebody who will say: We learned the lesson of the elections in 1976 when PLO supporters were elected mayors and we will never again allow it?

Answer: There is no room for drawing an analogy between the elections in 1972 and 1976 and elections in the future based on the Camp David accords. These elections will be held within the framework of Camp David. After the population has recognized the State of Israel and its right to exist -- in spite of the PLO's veto -- it will participate in elections on the basis of a willingness to establish peace in the Middle East.

That is why I am not concerned about this matter. When that happy day for which we are striving arrives, Palestinians willing to reach a peace agreement and to run for office within its framework will be found.

Question: Why do you think Bassam ash-Shak'ah and other PLO supporters did not "grab" the autonomy? Why do they not regard it as the opening toward a solution of the Palestinian problem?

Answer: It is a question of mentality. The PLO supporters are not ready to accept any Jewish sovereignty over any part of Eretz Yisra'el. They are not only rejecting the autonomy, they are rejecting the State of Israel. Some of them are ready to take control in the West Bank on the condition they are not forced to make peace with Israel and are allowed to continue their struggle against it in exchange. I assume there are those in Judaea and Samaria who deep in their hearts want to join the peace process but ultimately toe the line, and there are others who accept the possibility of coexistence with Israel but who are not strong enough to state their opinions in public.

Question: You can see that nobody stands up, not even one known, acceptable and popular leader stands before the majority of the population and claims to have joined the process. Does this not prove their incorporation is unfeasible?

Answer: I was not enthusiastic about the imaginary success of Israeli policy in the period leading to the present situation, when the PLO put down roots. Do we have to give up and despair of peace and a dialogue because the situation today is more difficult than in 1969 and 1972? We did not foresee some aspects of the current situation; we did not realize that in certain conditions a policy of noninvolvement can tip the scales. The things that we did or did not do in the past are part of the burden we are carrying. However, should we give up and say we have fulfilled one part of the agreement and we should forget the second part for the time being and thus allow the PLO to run wild and take control of the territories after all the efforts and sacrifices we made in the wake of Camp David? There is no alternative but to allow for a positive Palestinian expression and the incorporation of the Palestinians in the process.

The Palestinian people do not have a tradition of an independent political existence, one that does not depend on outside factors. Hence, the great importance of the framework agreement on the autonomy which compels the three parties to implement it. Once the conditions are ripe, the Palestinians will be able to decrease their dependence on one of the three partners, the Arabs. Questioning the Egyptian commitment to the framework agreement does not ease the way for the incorporation of the Palestinian Arabs.

Question: Does the firm position of Bassam ash-Shak'ah against the process not corroborate his assessment that Mustafa Dudin, for example, and the civilian administration are weak elements which do not and will not attain a real political position?

Answer: A political situation cannot be changed within a few weeks, it is a lengthy process. The PLO also took a long time to put down roots in the area: The process began in 1969, it received momentum after the Rabat conference and stabilized in 1976 when the PLO members seized powerful positions in the minicipal councils. The next stage was the 13th Palestinian national conference and the program to funnel funds to the territories and assume control of additional institutions. Time and numerous ideological, political and financial efforts are needed to reverse such a process. When I assumed this post, an expert with practical experience wrote me that he hoped I realized that such a change would occur within at least 2 years, namely, that it is premature to discuss the results after some weeks or months.

Question: Does it also corroborate the claim that "there is time" with regard to an agreement on the autonomy?

Answer: The date for establishing the autonomy is certainly not a date which we cannot set.

You mentioned Ash-Shak'ah, he is certainly not interested in an acceptable autonomy, he is interested in unacceptable freedom of action. When an aide asked him why not autonomy, Ash-Shak'ah replied: We already have autonomy. He has already achieved the noninvolvement of the authorities and he does not want to pay any political price in exchange for the freedom he will obtain to impose his positions. There are those who ask: What is a PLO mayor? How does his support for the PLO express itself? How does he gain control of the public? The mayor is legally entitled not to issue a parking permit. He may not grant a contract to someone who would not send his family to participate in demonstrations. In such cases, the inhabitants cannot appeal to the High Court of Justice.

Question: Is it possible to form an alternate leadership to the PLO, especially from among Jordanian loyalists, when Jordan does not support such a move? Would it not be worth it to give up efforts to form "village leagues" now that a sentence has been passed on them? Did the alternate policy not lead to -- at least ad hoc -- cooperation between PLO and Jordan supporters, thus doing away with a possible alternative?

Answer: The picture has been distorted. The union between the PLO and Jordanian policy did not begin in November 1981 when the civilian administration was established, but after the Camp David accords; Jordan has since then been party to the rejectionist front against the accords.

Those who think the gap between them closed as a result of the establishment of the civilian administration are wrong; there is nothing new about the link between PLO and Jordanian supporters. That link began at the Baghdad conference; a joint committee operates in Amman. Ash-Shawwa and [Bethlehem Mayor] Ilyas Frayj had already adopted the basic position opposing the Camp David accords. Frayj's moderation should be explained. If it means that he does not blow his top and that he keeps cool, then the definition is correct. If it means he is ready to accept the Camp David accords, that he is willing to adopt a different line from that of the PLO, the definition is wrong. Ever since he decided to toe the PLO's line, whenever he says something incompatible with that line he hastens to add -- whether on that same occasion or some time afterwards: These are my private opinions but I will accept any decision made by the PLO. In other words, he acts as if his own personal opinions are devoid of public value. He wants to have his cake and eat it too -- to be depicted as moderate, as well as to support the PLO and follow its instructions. It is true not all those in the PLO accept his game and they remind him about it occasionally. The same holds true regarding Ash-Shawwa. One of those alleged moderate leaders came out against the weapons furnished to members of the village leagues. [several sentences deleted by censor]

Question: Professor Milson, are you not waging a simultaneous war on all fronts: against Ash-Shak'ah, against Frayj, against the Jordanian supporters and the PLO supporters?

Answer: I am not fighting either Frayj or Ash-Shak'ah. The goal is not to wage war for the sake of it. We want to create a situation that would establish peace between Israel and the Palestinians, that would permit those Palestinians who so desire to talk about peace. [several sentences censored] We are not interested in a confrontation. It was not the civilian administration that brought about a confrontation, the PLO did so when it called for boycotting the civilian administration. We did not dismiss the Al-Birah city council when it announced it would not cooperate with us. The lack of cooperation that followed rather than the announcement itself provoked the dismissal of the city council. On several occasions Frayj declared he would not cooperate. However, he works with us and we are not firing him in spite of his declarations. When the civilian administration started operating, several people asked Frayj about his attitude toward it, and he replied: It is a matter of cosmetics. At that time, Ash-Shak'ah stated the civilian administration was the most dangerous conspiracy against the Palestinians. How come? After all, it is the same administration that operates in Judaea and Samaria. Frayj, who has continued to work with the civilian administration, and who did not heed the PLO's order to boycott it needed an alibi. Ash-Shak'ah, who has really boycotted the civilian administration, does not need an alibi.

Question: Is this experiment -- which, according to you, was possible in the past before the PLO put down roots as you phrased it -- really possible today? Is it not too late and too little?

Answer: In the past, Israel declared its willingness for peace but it did not have an agreed plan. Today there is an agreed plan, there is an agreement and part of it has been implemented. The PLO continues to claim it will undermine this plan or any other plan other than its own. What choice does Israel have? You claim the struggle is a difficult one. True, it is a lengthy and difficult struggle and the Israeli people are called upon to close ranks and to evince a large degree of agreement about that same limited goal. The Israeli people are divided in their views over the nature of the permanent arrangement. However, we must agree on the principles assuring the framework of the agreement. Therefore, the struggle against the PLO is inevitable. It is certainly a difficult arena and without national agreement on that very limited goal, it will be very difficult to attain it. Let us for one minute assume, for the sake of this discussion, Israel adopted a policy of granting conditional recognition to the PLO and the PLO rejected it. What would happen then? The main rifts in the PLO's strength and image will appear when Palestinians who unconditionally support the peace process emerge here, in the area under our military control.

Question: Will this be possible through the village leagues?

Answer: Contrary to descriptions, the village leagues are neither the invention of the civilian administration nor of the military government preceding it. It was an Arab initiative that emerged from within this area, to be more precise, it was Mustafa Dudin's initiative. The village leagues came into being in spite of the PLO's opposition and certain indifferences on the part of the Israeli authorities. In other words, they meet a genuine need of an important sector of the population. The entire issue -- rather than the opposition to it -- is still relatively new, except for Hebron. Those opposed to the village leagues depict them -- either mistakenly or deliberately -- as a substitute for the PLO, as if we wanted to portray them as such, and sneer at the naivete of the civilian administration on this matter. However, nobody had planned to replace the PLO, to present a central political force on which to found the establishment of peace. There is a sector which has been neglected for years or perhaps generations. This sector includes people who want to shape it as an independent force which does not rely on the PLO. So what should we do, should we abandon them? Should we neglect them? We are not only working with the village leagues and they are not the only political force that is taken into consideration when we plan a political change.

BRIEFS

EXPORTS TO U.S. -- The Ministry of Industry has determined that the United States has become Israel's number one export market. Israeli exports to the United States total $1.25 billion. A particularly large increase was marked in the export of electronic products and aircraft. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 14 May 82 TA]

KENYA

SWAPO PRESIDENT CALLS FOR NAMIBIA CONFERENCE

EA151516 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 15 May 82

[Text] SWAPO President Sam Nujoma has accused the Western nations' contact group of trying to exclude the UN from decolonization of Namibia.

He also repeated his call for a face-to-face conference of all the parties involved in the Namibian conflict, but under the auspices of the UN. Such a conference was held in Geneva, Switzerland, last year, but was torpedoed by racist South Africa's uncompromising attitude.

Mr Nujoma was speaking at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport yesterday before his departure for home.

He reiterated that Namibia was a responsibility of the UN and that any peace talks should be held under its supervision.

Mr Nujoma praised Kenya for its moral and material assistance to SWAPO.

SUDAN'S PRESIDENT NUMAYRI DEPARTS 14 MAY

EA141614 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 14 May 82

[Summary] President Ja'far Numayri of the Sudan left Nairobi this afternoon after attending the UNEP [UN Environment Program] session of a special character. He arrived in Nairobi last Wednesday and during his 3-day stay in the country held talks with President Daniel arap Moi.

UGANDA

OPPOSITION MP'S LOSE SEATS UNDER ATTENDANCE LAW

AB140819 Paris AFP in English 0757 GMT 14 May 82

[Text] Kampala, 14 May (AFP) -- Three opposition members of Parliament in Uganda have lost their seats after a resolution was passed in the house demanding regular attendance.

The new law ousts all MP's who do not take an oath of allegiance within the first 30 sittings of a new Parliament or who fail to attend 30 consecutive sittings of the house without the speaker's permission. The resolution was passed on Wednesday against stiff objections from the Democratic Party, the main opposition party. The law was made retroactive to the last general elections held in December 1980.

Unseated was the sole MP from the Uganda Patriotic Front, Charles Kiyonga, who has never been sworn in as member of Parliament and is believed to have gone into exile a few days after the elections.

Also unseated were Bernard Buzabo and Pancreas Kaboha, both of the Democratic Party. They were sworn in as MP's soon after the elections but have been absent for a period longer than the new law allows for. Another Democratic Party MP, Abu Mayanja, was expected to lose his seat under the law if he does not attend today's session. This would leave the opposition with 39 seats in the 140-seat Parliament.

CAMEROON

AHIDJO COMMENTS ON DOMESTIC ACHIEVEMENTS, CHAD

AB141703 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 14 May 82

[Text] The national daily, CAMEROON TRIBUNE, this morning published an exclusive interview of the head of state, President Ahmadou Ahidjo. In the interview, the head of state declared his satisfaction for the achievements of Cameroonians during the past 10 years. These achievements, he said, can be resumed in its unity, economic boom and the general improvement in the welfare of Cameroonians. President Ahidjo reaffirmed his deep attachment to unity as being necessary to national construction. He said the achievements were many but warned against the attitude of contentment, calling on all Cameroonians to pursue the tasks undertaken for they have the means to do so.

Talking about the party, the head of state invited all militants to be devoted, competent and dynamic in carrying out party policies. He denounced subversive elements whom he called specialists of destabilization and division. They only way to guard against such elements, he said, is to remain vigilant. (?In a reply) to a question on the new presidential palace, the president said the palace was not the property of the head of state but the Cameroonian nation. Its construction, he said, is a demonstration of the constant wish to provide public services with modern structures.

President Ahidjo also took a look at international problems. On Chad, he called for the noninterference into Chadian internal affairs. Cameroon, he said, has set a good example in this respect. He praised the UN initiative in Chad, particularly for the means it has provided, its composition and its experience. On Cameroon-Nigeria relations, the president said the last May 16th incident has been forgotten about by his visit to Nigeria which also permitted a reinforcement of cooperation ties and understanding between Nigeria and Cameroon. The president also gave a press conference this morning to representatives of the international press who are presently in Yaounde for Cameroon's 10th anniversary celebrations of the unitary state.

GABON

MINISTRY SAYS NO RELATIONS RESUMED WITH ISRAEL

AB171937 Libreville Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 17 May 82

[Press statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in Libreville on 17 May]

[Text] Having learned of the resumption of diplomatic relations between Zaire and Israel and with a view to answering press and political circle questions on Gabon's stand, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation wishes to point out: On 11 June 1973, the Republic of Gabon, like other African countries, decided to break diplomatic relations with Israel. Despite encouraging developments in the Middle East, several problems remain, which hamper the return of a true peace in the region. Therefore, the stand of the Gabonese Government remains unchanged, in a spirit of solidarity with other Islamic Conference countries.

CCP DELEGATION TOURS FRANCEVILLE 14 MAY

AB151152 Libreville Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 14 May 82

[Text] The CCP delegation, in the country since last Tuesday, this morning visited the Chinese (?mission) in Tchibanga. The CCP delegation this afternoon arrived in Franceville. (George Wiming) reports from Franceville:

[Begin recording] The CCP delegation, guided by Comrade Laurent Dikko, safely arrived this afternoon in Franceville, capital of the Province of Haut-Ogooue. It was welcomed at the boarding ramp by Comrade Abu Modekamba, provincial delegate of our great comrade and secretary general and founder of the Gabonese People's Democratic Party. He was accompanied by Fidel Mayiagna, governor of the Province of Haug-Ogooue; (Balkazar Abarabara), the prefect of Franceville; and other local personalities, both military and civilian. Soon after arrival at the international airport, the Chinese delegation was driven to the Pokar Hotel. It is to be recalled that yesterday at Port Gentil, the economic capital, the Chinese delegation visited production units, for example, the Digaba Lumber Company which is the first link of the Gabonese industrial chain and a great example of cooperation between peoples. It then visited the Gabonese Refinery Company -- the Port Gentil refinery -- which today has a production capacity of 1 million tons (?a year). And finally, in the evening, the Chinese delegation visited the [name indistinct] pipeline terminal. The Chinese delegation this morning made a stopover at the Tchiganga agricultural project. Tomorrow morning, before leaving Franceville for Oyem, the Chinese delegation will visit Ottonoville. It is, therefore, evident that Chinese-Gabonese cooperation is sound. [end recording]

ZAIRE

PRESIDENT MOBUTO SET TO VISIT ROK 7-10 JUNE

AB151225 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1130 GMT 15 May 82

[Text] At the invitation of His Excellency Chon Tu-hwan, president of the Republic of Korea, Citizen Mobuto Sese Seko, MPR founding chairman and president of the Zairian Republic, will pay an official visit to the Republic of Korea from 7 to 10 June 1982.

During the visit, the MPR founding chairman and president of the republic will hold discussions with his Korean counterpart on the general international situation and issues of common interest.

NSINGA MEETS WITH IRAQI MINISTER 16 MAY

AB161355 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1130 GMT 16 May 82

[Excerpts] Citizen Nsinga Udjuu Ongwakebi Untube, executive secretary of the MPR and first state commissioner, this morning, soon after his return from Conakry, received in audience at his private residence Muhammad Fadil Husayn, Iraqi minister of housing and reconstruction. Muhammad Husayn granted an interview after his audience with the first state commissioner:

[Begin recording] I have come to give His Excellency Mobutu the invitation of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to attend the forthcoming summit meeting of the heads of state and government of nonaligned countries scheduled to take place in Baghdad in September 1982. His excellency the first state commissioner accepted the invitation and expressed his country's desire to participate effectively in the deliberations of this conference.

[Question] Iraq has some serious problems with the war with Iran. What is the present situation?

[Answer] The war? We have responded in the interior of Iranian territory [words indistinct] we have been able to push back the aggression from our national borders, and the current fighting is within Iranian territory. And the Iraqi people and his excellency [words indistinct] have decided to protect our country from any external aggression whatever the cost. This is frank talk; this is true talk. It is reality. [end recording]

CAPE VERDE

PRESIDENT ARISTIDES PEREIRA VISITS NORTH KOREA

For Pyongyang KCNA accounts of the visit to North Korea by President Aristides Pereira, including speeches at a state banquet and the text of a DPRK-Cape Verde cooperation agreement, see the North Korea sections of the 10 and 17 May Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT.

DEFENSE MINISTER LEADS DELEGATION TO CUBA

AB171605 Paris AFP in French 1447 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] Praia, 17 May (AFP) -- A delegation of the Cape Verdian Defense Ministry led by Defense Minister Maj Honorio Chantre Fortes left Praia on Monday for a working and friendly visit to Cuba at the invitation of the Cuban minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, it was learned from informed sources. This visit, within the framework of relations between the two countries, will enable the Cape Verdian delegation to visit Cuba's higher military schools and to learn about Cuban military experience in the organization of the Cuban revolutionary forces and its national defense system.

GHANA

NINE-MEMBER DELEGATION LEAVES FOR SEOUL

AB171507 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] A nine-member Ghana delegation has flown to Seoul, South Korea, to participate in a week-long rural community training program. The delegation is led by the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] secretary for rural development, Mr Ankomah. According to the South Korean ambassador, the people of Korea would like to share their past experience in rural development and food production with the Ghanaian delegation as their contribution to the success of Ghana's holy war. The delegation will also visit industrial establishments around South Korea countryside before returning home at the end of the month.

LIBERIA

DOE RETURNS 17 MAY, ANNOUNCES END OF CURFEW

AB171651 Monrovia RADIO ELWA in English 1600 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] Head of State and CIC [Commander in Chief] Samuel K. Doe and his 20-man official party returned home today from their Afro-Asian tour. CIC Doe and party were met on arrival at the Roberts International Airport by the minister of state for presidential affairs and chairman of the Cabinet, Dr Harry Nayou; the vice head of state, Maj Gen J. Nicholas Podier Jr; members of the People's Redemption Council; members of (Fort Stanley) and other high-ranking government officials including marketwomen and students.

On his business at the executive mansion shortly upon his arrival, CIC Doe said the People's Republic of China has granted the Government of Liberia $13 million to revive Loptico in Maryland County, 20 military jeeps for the armed forces and two buses. Speaking further, CIC Doe said:

[Begin recording] In view of our desire to remove all obstacles to progress in our country and build upon the faith in our people to act responsibly, as dramatized during our absence from the country, the council has decided to lift the curfew imposed immediately after the April 12 coup. [end recording]

NIGERIA

SWAPO LEADER BRIEFS SHAGARI ON NAMIBIA STATUS

AB171751 Lagos NAN in English 1735 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] Lagos, 17 May (NAN) -- The leader of SWAPO, Mr. Sam Nujoma, said in Lagos today that only the intensification of armed struggle would make South Africa and its allies reach a genuine settlement of the Namibian problem.

Mr. Nujoma was speaking when he called at the State House to brief President Shehu Shagari on the situation in Namibia. He, however, said that SWAPO would leave the door open for further negotiations on UN Resolution 435 on the independence of Namibia.

The SWAPO leader accused South Africa of using delay tactics in the struggle to achieve independence for Namibia.

Mr. Nujoma also accused the United States of encouraging the intransigence of the racist regime of South Africa. He said that SWAPO was opposed to the proposals for a combined electoral system in Namibia, adding that it wanted a simple electoral system of one man one vote.

The SWAPO leader conmmended Nigeria for its support and said that his organisation would appreciate further assistance from Nigeria.

SHAGARI DEPLORES RSA NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT

AB181146 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 18 May 82

[Text] The Federal Government says it is in support of the efforts of the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA, to promote safety in nuclear energy development. President Shehu Shagari gave the assurance when the director general of the agency, (Dr Hans Blecht), paid him a courtesy call at the State House in Lagos. The president deplored the role of some Western countries in aiding the development of nuclear energy by the racist regime in South Africa, adding that the situation now poses a threat to Africa.

President Shagari said that Nigeria was not in a hurry to sign the nuclear energy. He stressed that Nigeria could not sign the agreement now because nothing had been developed.

Earlier, (Dr Blecht) commended Nigeria for promoting disarmament and for signing the Non-proliferation Treaty.

STUDENTS GIVE SHAGARI 4 WEEKS TO MAKE CHANGES

AB180836 Lagos NAN in English 0824 GMT 18 May 82

[By John Elaigu]

[Text] Kano, 17 May (NAN) -- The National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) has given President Shehu Shagari four weeks to implement certain changes toward revamping the nation's economy "or face the students of this country."

The proposed changes include immediate dismissal of "all political assistants, presidential liaison officers and redundant and ineffective advisers/ministers because they collude to ruin the economy of this country."

In a communique at the end of its third meeting at Katsina yesterday, the association also urged the president to lift the ban on importation of books and frozen foods.

It called on the Federal Government to reconsider the decision to move to Abuja in order that it may appreciate the problems of Nigerians.

The students suggested that in view of the present state of our economy, the number of commissioners in states should not exceed nine while they recommended fifteen ministers at the federal level.

The NANS frowned at the rate the nations resources were being spent on international visitors and called for an end to it.

It also wanted the 1977 Indigenization Act abrogated as it had out-lived its usefulness adding that "all multinational corporations operating under the guise of this act should be identified and sent packing."

The association frowned at what it described as "unwarranted and indiscriminate way and rate in which students are sent out of their institutions."

It appealed to the authority of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, to reinstate the expelled students of that institution and urged other institutions that had expelled students to "temper justice with mercy."

It, however, maintained that there would be no peace at the University of Calabar until the authority there rescinded its action against some students and the students' union.

The association appointed a fact-finding committee to investigate the cause of the crisis at the Federal Advanced Teachers' College, Kotangora.

ANGOLA

DEFENSE MINISTRY ISSUES COMMUNIQUE 16 MAY

EA171232 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 17 May 82

[Defense Ministry Communique issued 16 May]

[Text] During the first half of May, 1982, South African racists carried out no less than 115 reconnaissance flights.

In March, April and the first half of May, the South African racists considerably increased their reconnaissance flights over the People's Republic of Angola, as well as their criminal air bombing and strafing attacks on installations, military and civilian vehicles and against the population.

It is significant that in the first half of May, no less than 115 reconnaissance flights were reported. They included indepth reconnaissiance flights which took place on 6, 11, 13 and 14 May, involving 14, 12, 50 and 23 reconnaissance missions respectively, carried out about 300 km inside our national territory.

The flights carried out during 10-14 May, which totalled 78 flights, overflying mainly the areas of Jamba, Cassinga, Mulondo, Cahama, Chibemba, N'jiva and Xangongo, are proof of the stepped-up reconnaissance flights and their increased penetration inside the country.

As proof of the aggressiveness and the desperation of the South Africans, we lament the attack carried out at 1740 on 14 May against economic targets of vital importance and the civilian population in the locality of Jamba, about 38 km southwest of Cubango and 300 km inside the country. The South Africans bombed an electrical center at an iron mine at Cassinga Norte, belonging to the Ferrongol State Enterprise of the Industry Ministry, the Jamba railroad station, as well as a train stationary in that station, and (Cuanza Bel) village, about 1 km northeast of Jamba railroad station.

As a result of this cowardly attack, we lament the death of seven people -- four children and three women. A number of people also were wounded.

Yesterday, 15 May, at 1410, a group of 4 to 6 Mirage jets, 3 of which belonged to the South African Air Force, bombed FAPLA [Angolan Armed Forces] positions in Cubango. However, the quick response of our forces immediately frustrated the enemy action. At the same time, an air raid on Jamba airport was reported: it also was repulsed by our forces.

Today, 16 May, at about 0600, 9 South African Air Force Mirage jets bombed FAPLA positions in Cahama, resulting in the death of 6 FAPLA soldiers, with 14 others wounded.

Meanwhile, various areas in Cunene Province continue to be under the control of South African land forces. There is also a concentration of forces -- including mercenaries -- and materiel in areas near the southern border of the People's Republic of Angola with Namibia.

Concurrent with all the military actions since March, we observe the increasing number of statements from South Africans, the contents of which are increasingly dangerous and aggressive, continually accusing the People's Republic of Angola of supporting SWAPO, the legitimate representative of the Namibian people. As proof of these aggressive statements, we note:

On 23 April, South African Defense Minister Gen Magnus Malan said before Parliament that his country might be forced to carry out in-depth military actions inside the People's Republic of Angola.

On 29 April, a spokesman of the South African Armed Forces said Angola had been warned on various occasions that it would have to bear all consequences and if it continued support for SWAPO, it would find itself engaged in an open war with the Republic of South Africa.

On 4 May, the chief of the Western Air Command in Namibia said the [word indistinct] air force (?and) land forces would continue to fight SWAPO forces.

Another communique from the South African Defense Forces [SADF] said some of the so-called SWAPO terrorists were wearing FAPLA uniforms and this proves the close collaboration between SWAPO and FAPLA, as well as the use of a joint logistic system.

On 14 May, the SADF announced that a FAPLA helicopter had been destroyed during a hot pursuit operation carried out against SWAPO members and that the helicopter had been found unloading supposed logistic support for PLAN [People's Liberation Army of Namibia] forces.

With such statements, the South Africans want to justify the criminal actions they carry out daily against the Angolan people, with the apparent aim of obtaining support from national and international public opinion for its so-called policy of legitimate defense. This aggressiveness, stepped-up military actions and arrogant statements confirm accelerated preparations for new large-scale military aggression against the People's Republic of Angola, similar to that carried out on 23 August, 1981.

The Defense Ministry again denounces before international public opinion the political blackmail and the show of strength by the South African regime and warns that such attitudes may seriously prejudice the current negotiations for the independence of Namibia.

The People's Republic of Angola, an independent and sovereign state, has every right to choose its friends and its enemies. SWAPO, recognized internationally as the sole and legitimate representative of the Namibian people, requires support from peace-loving peoples in its just struggle to achieve the liberty and dignity of its people.

The People's Republic of Angola does not threaten the sovereignty of the Republic of South Africa but is simply helping a people fighting for their liberty in the same way the People's Republic of Angola was helped by other peoples during its liberation struggle. This gesture of solidarity does not mean any interference in the internal affairs of other states. South Africa has no right over Namibian territory which it occupied by force.

The Angolan people will close ranks in the face of South African attacks and will respond with revolutionary resolve in the face of repercussions from international reaction.

The struggle continues: Victory is certain!

The office of the Ministry of Defense, Luanda, May 1982

[Signed] Col Pedro Maria Tonha Pedale, minister, office of the Ministry of Defense, Luanda, 16 May 1982

IRAQI VICE MINISTER DELIVERS HUSAYN MESSAGE

AB172147 Luanda ANGOP in French 2050 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] Luanda, 17 May (ANGOP) -- Iraqi Vice Foreign Minister Muhammad F. al-Hubbudi arrived in Luanda today with a message from Iraqi head of state Saddam Husayn, inviting his Angolan counterpart, Jose Eduardo dos Santos, to take part in the seventh summit of heads of state of nonaligned countries to be held in Baghdad (the Iraqi capital).

Muhammad al-Hubbudi was welcomed on arrival by Angolan Vice Foreign Minister Venancio de Moura and said his country wants to find a peaceful solution to the Iraqi-Iranian conflict. To this end, he recalled, Iraq, jointly with the United Nations and the nonaligned countries, has made efforts to find a solution to the conflict.

STATE SECRETARY RETURNS FROM VISIT TO CUBA

AB161258 Luanda ANGOP in French 1145 GMT 16 May 82

[Text] Luanda, 15 May (ANGOP) -- Rodeth Gil, Angolan secretary of state for social affairs, returned to the capital yesterday at the end of a 7-day official visit to Cuba at the invitation of the country's education authorities.

During his stay in Cuba, Rodeth Gil and his delegation were received by Jose Ramon Fernandez, Cuban education minister; Vilma Espin, president of the Federation of Cuban Women; and other high Cuban officials.

Rodeth Gil and his delegation also visited various educational establishments in the Cuban capital as well as the Isle of Youth, 125 km from Havana, where they held discussions with Angolan students.

MOZAMBIQUE

CSSR DELEGATION DEPARTS; COMMUNIQUE CITED

EA141720 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 14 May 82

[Text] A high-ranking Czechoslovak party and government delegation left Maputo this morning for Zambia at the end of a visit to the People's Republic of Mozambique. The delegation was led by Vasil Bilak, member of the Presidium and of the Central Committee of the CPCZ [Czechoslovak Communist Party].

Meanwhile, a communique was issued to the news media this morning, marking the end of the talks between Frelimo and the CPCZ. The communique says the talks were held in a climate of friendship and mutual understanding and permitted an exhaustive exchange of views on the situation in the respective countries.

The delegations, headed by Joaquim Chissano, member of the Political Bureau and foreign affairs secretary of the Frelimo Central Committee, and by Vasil Bilak, member of the Presidium and of the CPCZ Central Committee, analyzed the degree of implementation of the agreement signed between the two parties. In this context, the two sides noted with satisfaction that the agreement was implemented through positive action at the level of parties and social and mass organizations of the two countries.

Analyzing the international situation, the two sides reiterated their condemnation of all maneuvers aimed at retarding Namibia's independence and reaffirmed their total support for the struggle of the Namibian people by SWAPO.

COMMENTARY EXAMINES 'ARMED GANGS' PROBLEM

EA161526 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0605 GMT 16 May 82

[From "The Voice of Combat" program]

[Text] The actions of armed gangs have been causing great economic, material and human losses. They have been creating insecurity among the people and casting doubts on Mozambique's development plans.

Today we are living in a situation of undeclared war. This is why Frelimo and our government have created the provincial military commanders who will help us to face the exigencies of the decade of battle against underdevelopment.

Many people have been asking: Why has the government created these commanders now and not earlier? It is important we should know that the [words indistinct] are a result of this action. The armed gangs are not a new phenomenon to the Mozambique people. If we analyse events carefully, we can understand and define our objectives better. Therefore, the people must understand and correctly interpret the barbarities committed by the armed gangs.

During the national liberation armed struggle, the bandits, who are now armed, behaved differently from the way they now do. They have always been the agents of imperialism. Imperialism today is arming these bandits who have South Africa as their base.

We have much evidence proving imperialist involvement in the destabilization of Mozambique. Last November the Mozambique Armed Forces attacked, as they always have, the main base at Garagua. They captured a large stock of weapons and documents proving Western involvement. However, before that, we had still not proved that the gangs were financed by imperialism.

The inception of the gangs took place at the time of the signing of the Lusaka agreement. The movement continued to grow later when many people, who had been compromised with the repressive colonial structures, fled at the time of independence and when our government decided to nationalize properties.

BRIEFS

GDR OFFICIALS DEPART -- GDR Deputy Education Minister Rudolf Par left Maputo for home this morning after talks with Mozambique officials. The talks concerned Mozambicans studying in the GDR and that country's support for the national education system in Mozambique. The deputy minister met in Maputo yesterday with the teachers and students due to leave for the GDR. Meanwhile, the GDR secretary of state for geology, Dr (Gutt), returned to his country today after a working visit to Mozambique. During his stay in our country, Dr (Gutt) held talks with the Mozambique Government within the context of the work of the subcommission of geology and mines of the joint commission for cooperation. Documents were signed this morning following the talks. [Text] [Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1300 GMT 3 May 82 LD]

WORKERS TO BULGARIA -- Two thousand Mozambican workers will leave this year for the People's Republic of Bulgaria to be trained in various professional skills. The training of Mozambican workers in Bulgaria comes under the agreements signed between the workers and councils and the Bulgarian trade unions. Mozambican students currently are taking courses at a trade union school in Bulgaria. [Text] [Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 8 May 82 EA]

BROADCASTING COOPERATION WITH CUBA -- Under the agreement signed last year by Radio Mozambique and the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television, six Cuban cooperation workers for Radio Mozambique are expected in Mozambique this year. The exchange of radio programs also will increase. This was disclosed in Maputo today by the vice president of the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television, Jose Rodriguez Llaneras, shortly before his departure for home. Jose Llaneras expressed his satisfaction following contacts with Radio Mozambique and said Cuba will send monthly interviews given by Mozambicans studying in Cuba for broadcast by Radio Mozambique. [Text] [Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 10 May 82 EA]

SOUTH AFRICA

DEFENSE FORCE REACTS TO ANGOLAN COMMUNIQUE

LD172308 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] The South African Defense Force says it is high time that Angola stopped complaining about South African (?Defense Force) operations against SWAPO. According to the Angolan Defense Ministry, South African Air Force jets hit targets in the region of Jamba, Cassinga, Chibemba, N'jiva and Xangongo last week. The Angolan news agency ANGOP said seven civilians and six Angolan soldiers were killed during the attacks. The South African Defense Force said in Pretoria that Angola willingly granted Marxist terrorist organizations base facilities in their country and actively supported them. SWAPO terrorists even wore Angolan uniforms. It was the stated policy of the defense force to find and destroy terrorists wherever they may be and the host country would have to carry the consequences of their actions in supporting what the spokesman called those [word indistinct] bandits.

ARMS DEVELOPMENT UNAFFECTED BY U.S. BAN

LD141312 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 14 May 82

[Text] The South African armaments industry will not be affected in any way by the decision by the American Government to reimpose an arms ban on South Africa. Radio RSA's military correspondent in Pretoria reports that the South African Armaments Development Corporation is in no way perturbed by the latest American decision because no American systems are in use in the South African armaments industry. He said the corporation had not placed any great score on the decisions by the U.S. Government in February to reallow South Africa to obtain certain American systems. When the American decision was announced in February, the chairman of the South African Armaments Development Corporation, Commandant Marais, said that South Africa had become totally independent of American weapons systems.

CISKEI YOUTHS RECEIVE GUERRILLA TRAINING

MB141346 Umtata Transkei Capital Radio in English 1100 GMT 14 May 82

[Text] More than 2,000 youths from the eastern cape have left home for guerrilla training this year. That's according to Ciskei President Lennox Sebe. Sebe was addressing a meeting of the South African-Britain Trade Association. He said 1,400 youths from Port Elizabeth and another 800 from Mdantsane have left this year for what he called terrorist training. Although Sebe did not elaborate, he called on the businessmen to embark on a drive to establish small businesses in Ciskei so as to alleviate the unemployment problem.

HNP REJECTS PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL PROPOSALS

MB141026 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1330 GMT 13 May 82

[Text] The Herstigte Nasionale Party [HNP] rejects the proposals of the President's Council. The leader of the HNP, Mr Jaap Marais, says the proposals open the door to conditions which will lead to greater and greater powers for nonwhites.

Speaking in Pretoria, Mr Marais said the proposals would not solve any problems and would only lead to greater constitutional confusion and inadequacy. Whites would finally find themselves under black rule. He said the HNP would fight the proposals of the President's Council.

BRIEFS

POLICE TRAINING CENTER -- The South African railways police force's new training center at Slagberg was officially opened. The center will provide sepcialized anti-insurgency training for the railway police. [Text] [Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 10 May 82 MB]

ZAMBIA

LUSAKA REPORTS KAUNDA REMARKS ON ISRAEL TIES

CA171432 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] President Kaunda has declared that Zambia will not resume diplomatic relations with Israel if that country continues to occupy the Arab and Palestinian lands. Dr Kaunda explained that after the 1967 Israeli-Arab war, he had told the Israeli ambassador to Zambia to warn him against what his country had decided to do because it was not correct. [sentence as heard]

President Kaunda said this last night when he was answering questions from a Kuwait television reporter. He said he was not qualified to speak on what other African heads of state had decided to do for their countries but the truth of the matter was that Zambia would never consider the resumption of diplomatic relations with Israel as long as it continued to flout the United Nation's order to evacuate from the [words indistinct].

Earlier in the day, Dr Kaunda was asked to work with other African countries in maintaining a diplomatic boycott of Israel. The request was made by the Kuwaiti leader following Zaire's decision last week to restore diplomatic ties with Israel. The sources however did not disclose President Kaunda's reaction to the request which reflects concern by Kuwait and other Arab states that more African countries may follow Zaire's example. All members of the Organization of African Unity broke relations with Israel in 1973 at the request of Arab countries seeking the return of the Israeli-occupied Arab territories. The president leaves Kuwait for Iraq today.

MUNDIA, CSSR'S BILAK SPEAK AT 16 MAY DINNER

CA171502 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Nalumino Mundia, last night called for detente, disarmament and cessation of the political tensions among the superpowers. He was speaking at a dinner held in honor of visiting member of the Presidium and secretary of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, Mr Vasil Bilak, at the Hotel Intercontinental. [Words indistinct] Mr Mundia reaffirmed Zambia's support for the people of Palestine led by the Palestine Liberation Organization, the cessation of the war between Iran and Iraq and genuine initiatives to bring peace in the Middle East and Europe.

Zambia, Mr Mundia said, was also concerned at efforts to divide the Organization of African Unity through the problems of Chad and the admittance of Western Sahara into the OAU. He also called for a solution to the Falklands issue in accordance with the United Nations resolution. The prime minister also observed that the problems of Namibia and South Africa continued to be a source of discontent for Zambia, adding that the time had come to rise to the occasion and resolve the issues once and for all.

In reply, Comrade Bilak said whatever cooperation exists between his country and Zambia, it must serve for the development of the economies and lives of the people of the two countries. He said the two countries had the same interests and supported the same policies. It was in this light that they had agreed on most of the issues discussed at their meeting. He said his country valued Zambia's contribution to the liberation of the region from oppressors. He described his talks in Zambia as useful and fruitful and called for more such dialogues in the future for the development of the two countries.

COOPERATION PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH CSSR 17 MAY

CA181040 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] Zambia and Czechoslovakia today signed a comprehensive agreement aimed at fostering even stronger bonds of cooperation between the two countries. The protocol was signed between party secretary general Mr Humphrey Mulemba and visiting Czechoslovak Vice President [as heard] Mr Vasil Bilak at State House. The signing ceremony was the culmination of several rounds of intensive discussions the Czechoslovak leader had with Zambian officials during his 4-day state visit to Zambia which ended today. Speaking at the signing, Mr Mulemba called for speedy followup action to implement the program and benefit the people of the two countries.

ZIMBABWE

PRC TRADE UNION LEADER DESCRIBES 1-WEEK VISIT

CA181052 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 18 May 82

[Text] A four-man delegation from the All-China Federation of Trade Unions [ACFTU] is currently holding discussions with the leaders of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions [ZCTU] in Harare, aimed at strengthening cooperation between the two unions. The vice chairman of the ACFTU, Comrade Chen Yu, told newsmen in Harare today that during their 1-week stay in Zimbabwe they have been impressed by the role trade unions are playing in unifying the working class. Comrade Chen Yu commended the government and the people of Zimbabwe for the remarkable progress they have made in consolidating peace and independence and improving the livelihood of the people.

The Chinese trade unionist said Zimbabwe's policy of nonalignment, positive neutrality and its support for the struggle against apartheid in South Africa and Namibia has won admiration from other nonaligned countries. He said during their discussions they will try to find out in what way the People's Republic of China can help ZCTU in its worker education program. Comrade Chen Yu said he has extended an invitation to the ZCTU leadership to visit China on a familiarization tour.